

Czech president vote delayed

PRAGUE (AP) — Czechoslovakia's parliament Tuesday delayed choosing a successor to President Gustav Husak but one member, said cheer from the assembly, urged the group to vote in playmate Václav Havel. The federal assembly took the action after the Communist caucus controlling the body said members should relinquish their constitutional duty and let the voters decide directly. But Stanislav Hanzak, a member of the People's Party which has broken with the Communists, denounced the proposal as a delaying tactic. "Don't you think this can be the tactics of delay which may serve particular interests?" he asked. "This country quickly needs a president of respected moral quality. I know of one. I propose Václav Havel," Hanzak added. The acting assembly chairman and Socialist Party leader, Bohumír Konečný, refused to allow the Communists to change a set legislative agenda and insisted that the plan for the direct election be submitted to a legislative committee. The 350-member assembly, with a 242 Communist majority, is constitutionally required to elect a new president by Dec. 24 to replace hardliner Husak who stepped down Sunday.

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Egyptian airliner flies to Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — The first commercial Egyptian flight to Syria since 1977 — when diplomatic relations were severed following Cairo's treaty with Israel — landed here Tuesday. The Egypt Air Boeing 737 carried a special party of officials led by Samir Rashad, Egypt's deputy minister of transport. The two countries still do not have diplomatic relations, but Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad decided during a phone call Monday to resume air links. A Syrian Arab Airlines jet is due to make the approximately two hour flight to Cairo Wednesday. Adnan Al Jabi, head of Syrian Airlines and Mubarak Jorandi, deputy minister of transport, met the plane. "This positive step will promote deep brotherly relations between the Egyptian and Syrian peoples," said Rashad. He said Egypt Air will fly three times a week to the Syrian capital from Cairo. Jabi said the two delegations would talk about tourist exchanges between the two countries as well as the airline agreement.

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King, N. Yemen leader discuss peace efforts, Lebanon, ACC issues

By Mariam M. Shablin
Jordan Times Staff Writer
AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh began talks here Tuesday on inter-Arab affairs, issues related to the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and other matters of mutual interest as well as efforts under way to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Lebanese problem.

A North Yemeni official said the King and President Saleh reviewed cooperation among the four ACC countries — Iraq, Egypt, North Yemen and Jordan — and means to promote coordination among them.

The official confirmed that the King and Saleh were to discuss the issue of South Yemen's possible entry to the ACC, which has left its door open for other Arab states to join it. The possibility of South Yemen entering the council was boosted with the agreement last month between the two Yemenis on a reunification formula.

In an arrival statement at Marja airport, where he was received with a state welcome ceremony headed by the King and high-ranking officials, President Saleh said he was "delighted to be in Jordan at the invitation of King Hussein for consultations on issues of mutual concern to the two countries," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Saleh was also quoted as saying that his talks with King Hussein would cover the latest developments on the Arab and international scenes. He said the recent events had opened the door of East-West détente and that these events had strengthened world peace and security. He said the talks would also cover the latest developments in the Palestinian issue.

The president said he would brief the King on measures adopted by the two Yemenis for reunification.

The North Yemeni president, who is on his second trip to Jordan this year, said he followed the Jordanian parliamentary elections held last month with great interest and pride, adding that he appreciated the return of the legislative body to the Jordanian scene and commended the formation of the new government.

Saleh is accompanied by a 24-member delegation, which includes Deputy Prime Minister Hassan Makki, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Abdul Karim Iryani, the speaker and members of National Consultancy Council (Shura), the minister of youth and sports, the head of committee for foreign affairs of the Shura, and the head of the health and welfare committee of the Shura.

The King expressed hope that the next ACC summit, scheduled to be held in Amman in February, would further bolster relations among the four member countries.

The talks were attended on the North Yemeni side by the delegation accompanying President Saleh. Attending the talks on the Jordanian side were Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zaid, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'adeh, Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddine, Minister of Industry and Trade Zaid Fariz, Minister of Youth Ibrahim Ghobabshah and the secretary-general of the Royal Court.

Abdo Bourji, chief press officer of the delegation accompanying the North Yemeni president, said Saleh was returning two visits paid to Sana'a by King Hussein.

The King and President Saleh held a second round of talks Tuesday evening attended by senior officials from both sides. Petra said the King reaffirmed and paid tribute to the brotherly relations between the people of Jordan and North Yemen. The ties between the two countries were further boosted by the ACC, the King said.

The King expressed hope that the next ACC summit, scheduled to be held in Amman in February, would further bolster relations among the four member countries.



His Majesty King Hussein and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh hold a meeting Tuesday evening attended by senior officials from both sides. On the King's right are Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker (Petra photo)

Journalists association pays tribute to King's initiatives

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) has expressed pride of the democratic procedures witnessed in Jordan in this stage through holding free elections and moves that may result in lifting martial laws.

In a cable sent to His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday, the JPA emphasized that the government's decision to reverse the Economic Security Committee's (ESC) decision to takeover the Kingdom's daily newspapers was the beginning of a new era in the history of the Jordanian press.

Following is the full text of the cable:

The Jordan Press Association is honoured to express loyalty and allegiance to Your Majesty and to voice deep appreciation and gratitude for your care for

the Jordanian press and for your endeavours to make it assume its active role in serving Jordan, its citizens and the causes of the Arab Nation.

As Jordan is entering a new stage in its modern history, a stage which is distinguished by the climate of tolerance and openness and for the spirit of democracy under Your Majesty's directives, the JPA council likes to express its pride over the democratic procedures that Your Majesty opened at this stage by holding free and clean elections and launching moves towards lifting martial law.

The government's decision to reverse the Economic Security Committee's decision issued last year is the beginning of a new era in the history of the Jordanian

press and a correction to situations that contributed to limiting the freedom of expression and opinion.

Your Majesty, we, in the name of the press family, are looking forward to more procedures that will contribute to activating the role of the press and JPA in the democratic march and to organise the situations of the press in accordance with the historical circumstances that we are all living under your wise leadership.

We promise Your Majesty to be honest on the sanctity of the word in serving our national issues and to perform our mission and deal with the democratic formula with great care and responsibility, with the interest of Jordan and the Arab Nation above any other consideration.

French leader receives King's message on events in East bloc

Crown Prince, Mitterrand discuss efforts for peace

PARIS (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met here Tuesday with French President Francois Mitterrand and conveyed to him a message from His Majesty King Hussein on Jordan's views with regard to the fast-moving developments on the European scene and their impact on the Middle East region, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Prince Hassan and Mitterrand exchanged views on several world issues and reviewed current efforts to establish peace in the Middle East, in the Gulf and in Lebanon, Petra said.

The president expressed his deep appreciation of and respect for King Hussein and requested Prince Hassan to carry his greetings to the Monarch.

The meeting at the Elysee Palace was attended by King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Jordan's ambassador to France.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview Tuesday that reforms sweeping Eastern Europe and the sea change in U.S.-Soviet relations would have a profound effect on the Middle East.

He welcomed the changes, which showed Middle Eastern countries no longer needed to fear superpower intervention, but also that they could not rely on Soviet or American support.

"The parties in the (Middle Eastern) regional conflict can no longer rely on the automatic support of one of the two superpowers," he told the West German newspaper Die Welt in the interview released ahead of publication Wednesday.

"The superpowers have recognised that any attempt to use their policy to decide the outcome of a regional conflict such as in the Middle East will fail."

He said he thought the Soviet Union and the United States would also be happy they could avoid being dragged into a regional conflict.

Rabin said the new East-West situation would encourage responsible political forces in the region to find peaceful political solutions to their dispute.

But he did not include the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) among such forces, contending that it was the main obstacle to peace talks.

U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev told a joint news conference at the end of their Malta summit 10 days ago they were in broad agreement on the Middle East, a marked departure from previous stands on the issue.

However, he said a definite cause could not be determined until after the autopsy at the government's forensic lab.

The spokesman, who is not identified by name under military regulations, confirmed soldiers raided the village early Tuesday morning. He would not comment on whether any attempt was made to arrest the infant's father, Ibrahim Labadi.

The Palestinian reporters quoted the child's mother as saying she was nursing the baby about 4 a.m. (0200 GMT) and put her down in her usual place on the floor when there was a knock on the door.

The mother opened the door and five soldiers came in, ordering her husband Ibrahim to dress and come with them, she told the reporters.

After the troops left, the mother was quoted as saying, she saw the blood coming from the infant's nose and ran after the soldiers.

Shaath, Israeli Labour MK hold talks in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official and an Israeli parliamentarian met in Cairo Tuesday in an attempt to narrow differences between the two sides.

Nabil Shaath, a close aide to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, and Lova Eliav, a legislator from Israel's Labour Party, met over lunch to discuss Palestinian and Israeli concerns over U.S. plans for direct peace talks between them.

"We (Israel) have a bloody war between us and the Palestinians... but we should meet the PLO who are our enemies," Eliav told Reuters after the meeting.

"I'm not a rose-eyed optimist, we are both realists. The Middle East problem is very complicated and we have to start somewhere."

He said he was not breaking a 1986 law that bars Israelis from contacts with members of what it brands "terrorist" organisations, including the PLO.

Eliav, who hopes to have the law overturned, said no legal action would be taken against him because the talks were the continuation of a Cairo seminar on the Arab-Israeli conflict and a third party was always present.

"We are meeting under the auspices of Egyptian hosts," added Eliav, who as a member of Knesset (MK) enjoys immunity

Gorbachev keeps grip on congress

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Mikhail Gorbachev, keeping a firm hand on proceedings from the rostrum, ensured Tuesday that the Soviet parliament rejected a call to debate the Communist Party's guaranteed leadership.

The Congress of People's Deputies, convening for its second session, headed an appeal by Gorbachev against dealing with "crucial aspects of our social system," at a single stroke, voting against the motion by 1,158 to 839 with 56 abstentions.

"We must approach constitutional matters with great responsibility," Gorbachev told the session, in a lengthy speech against the motion, proposed by poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko on behalf of the inter-regional group of radical deputies.

Yevtushenko proposed a debate on Article Six of the Soviet constitution, which sets out the party's role as the "leading and

guiding force" in Soviet society, saying its removal would do no harm to the organisation's authority.

"I am not a member of the party, but I think party members should support this motion," he said. "The authority of the party cannot be set down in a single paragraph but must be proven in deeds every day."

Later, Yevtushenko called the vote a "double defeat" in light of the fact that most deputies are party members. "We got 839 votes," Yevtushenko said. "I didn't expect that."

The Baltic Republic of Lithuania last week became the first of the Soviet Union's 15 republics to strike a similar provision from its own constitution, replacing it with one allowing a multiparty system. Legislators there ordered that a law be written in 45 days outlining how other political parties will be registered.

In East Europe, Gorbachev's reforms have paved the way for Hungary, East Germany and Czechoslovakia to end their Communist parties' monopolies on power. On Monday, Bulgaria's leadership proposed similar measures and a multi-party system.

"We need drastic reforms," Gorbachev said of the economy. "So far, there are no improvements in this area, that's why the Supreme Soviet decided that the main question would be discussion of economic reform."



Mikhail Gorbachev

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Baker meets East German premier, pledges support

POTSDAM, East Germany (Agency) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker made an unprecedented visit to East Germany Tuesday to pledge American support to Prime Minister Hans Modrow in dismantling 40 years of Stalinism.

After calling in a speech in West Berlin for a new Europe, Baker matched words with deeds by driving over the Glienecke Bridge, scene of many cold war spy swaps, for a one-hour meeting with East Germany's new reformist prime minister.

He told journalists later: "We talked at quite some length about the importance of this reform effort moving forward in a peaceful and stable way. That as much as anything else represents the political signal that we wanted to send by being here today."

"We wanted to let the people of the (East) German Democratic Republic know about our support for the reforms taking place in this country."

Baker said he had told Modrow he was pleased his roundtable talks with opposition groups had led to the setting of a date for elections next May and that he was introducing economic reforms.

Sources in the American party said Modrow had assured Baker the election decision and the process of reform were irrevocable, and that Baker had said Washington was ready to respond to East Germany's economic needs.

The two did not talk about German reunification, the sources added.

Modrow told reporters: "This is satisfying dialogue has begun. I assume that this dialogue will lead to cooperation."

One member of Baker's party said of Modrow: "He was an impressive guy. He has positioned himself as well as he can."

"I am glad to see there are a lot of openings in that wall," Baker said as he visited the Potsdamer Platz, where a new crossing point

was created last month in the graffiti-sprayed wall after East Germany declared the border open. Souvenir hunters have chipped away large chunks of the once-impregnable concrete barrier.

"It's pretty impressive," Baker said as he toured the site along with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher on a cold late-autumn day.

Demonstrators nearby protested against U.S. policies in Central America, shouting "Yankes out of El Salvador."

It was not immediately clear how Baker's visit would strike Moscow, which has become increasingly wary of any signs of possible German reunification.

The secretary of state sent a telegram before setting out for Potsdam to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze telling him of his planned talks with Modrow, State Department spokeswoman Margaret D. Tutwiler said.

Meeting to analyse changes in society

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day symposium dealing with changes in the family throughout the developing nations will start here on Dec. 16 under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan with the participation of more than 60 delegates, half of them from Jordan.

The symposium, organised by the Jordanian Voluntary Organisation Community Centres in Amman in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation from West Germany, will look into the social structures as well as the traditional functions.

The organisers issued a statement noting that many Third World nations are not prepared to confront such changes in the family, which come about as a result of social and political changes and there is little public discussion about the actual situation of society.

They said that planning for the future of the society in the developing world is still not forthcoming and it is difficult for governmental decision-makers to face the new demands made on the state of society.

They noted that the symposium is being organised to help analyse this change in society and its institutions, especially in the family, and for women to describe the actual state of affairs and to make suggestions for possible solutions.

The participants, who will come from Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, in addition to Jordan are all sociologists or scholars.

Some specialists from Palestinian universities are also expected to attend the meetings.

They said that there will be representatives also from Germany, Denmark and Turkey as well as a number of Jordanian organisations and voluntary societies.

Hamdan calls for increased use of computers in schools

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan Tuesday called for increased use of computers in schools.

"To carry out the resolutions and recommendations of the first national educational conference of 1987, the ministry has to introduce new methods and techniques to upgrade and improve the quality of education in the Kingdom," Hamdan said at the meeting which was also attended by senior ministry officials.

The educational modernisation programme, Hamdan said, requires the use of computers for educational purposes in Jordanian schools and on a wide scale with the purpose of coping with technological development in the modern world.

"The computer is a very useful instrument in all economic, scientific and social fields, and students ought to be oriented on its use to improve the quality of their work and their future life," the minister continued.

According to Ministry of Education officials computer science was introduced in secondary schools in Jordan during the 1984-85 scholastic year, when only two schools acquired them.

But, they said, at present 163 schools have been supplied by computer sets for teaching purposes.

Under an agreement with the United Kingdom, the Ministry of Education has imported British computers for which specialists were brought into the country to train the local staff.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

LAWZI CONGRATULATES IRAQ: Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Tuesday sent a cable to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein congratulating Iraq for its success in launching a rocket capable of carrying a satellite. Lawzi lauded the development attained by the Iraqi military industries. Also Tuesday the speaker called the House's education, social development and health committees to a meeting Thursday at 10:30 to discuss the committees' duties. (Petra)

ARAR RECEIVES FRENCH ENVOY: Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar received in his office Tuesday French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Boushara who congratulated Arar on being elected as speaker. Arar also received Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Secretary General Hassan Ibrahim. (Petra)

YOUTH ART EXHIBITION: The Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Ramon Armengod Tuesday opened the Youth Art Exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre. The exhibition includes 43 oil and watercolour paintings that depict nature and national heritage. The exhibition will continue until the end of December. (Petra)

STUDENTS VISIT AMMAN MUNICIPALITY: Students from the military wing of Mu'ta University, near Karak, visited Greater Amman Municipality Tuesday to meet Mayor Ali Shbeimat. The mayor briefed the visitors on the municipality's plans and programmes to expand and improve municipal services to the ever growing population of the capital. The students later toured a number of municipality projects. (Petra)

CHINESE ENVOY VISITS UNIVERSITY: The cultural attaché at the Chinese embassy called at the University of Jordan Tuesday and met with University President Mahmoud Al Samra. They discussed ways to promote educational cooperation between Chinese and Jordanian universities. (Petra)

EXHIBITION: An exhibition featuring Jordanian-Palestinian culture was opened at the University of Jordan Tuesday. The exhibition, which will last seven days, depicts various aspects of the uprising in the occupied Arab territories. (Petra)

ARAB YOUTH MINISTERS TO MEET: Jordan will take part in the sixth technical committee meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports, which will start in Tunis Wednesday. Representing Jordan to the five-day meetings will be an official delegation, headed by Youth Ministry Secretary General Assem Ghosheh, who left for Tunis Tuesday. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

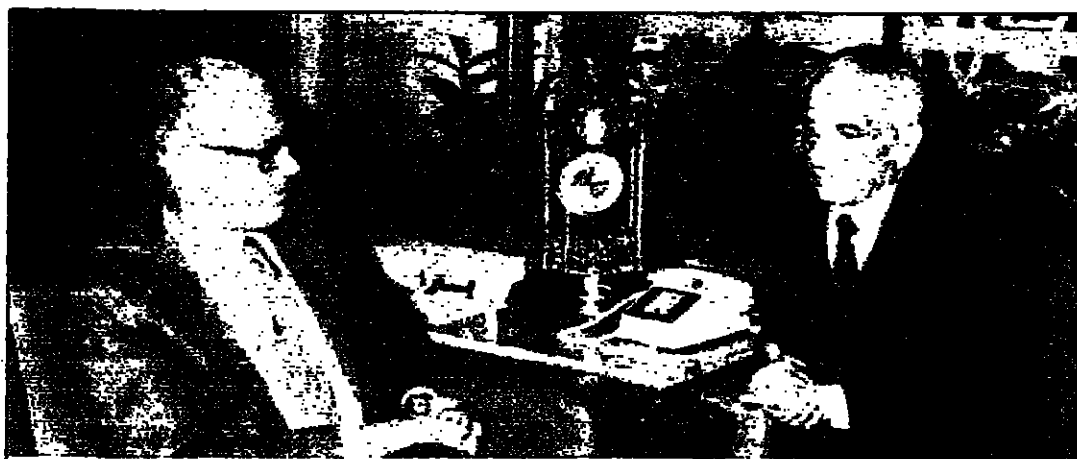
The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabic Islamic art at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- * An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- * A book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * A photography exhibition on French poet de Prevert at the French Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition of paintings and photographs on the Palestinian intifada at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Khaled Maazi at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Akram Haddad and Lebanese artist Fatima Hussein at Alla Art Gallery.
- * An exhibition on the Great Arab Revolt which includes photos, maps and documents at the Yarmouk University.
- * An art exhibition marking the second anniversary of the intifada at Jordan University of Science and Technology.
- * A book exhibition at Jordan University of Science and Technology.
- * The youths art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition of photographs showing the development of electric energy industry in the Soviet Union at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

- * A musical revue entitled Oh Coward at Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.



Lawzi receives envoys, CAEU chief

Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Tuesday received the West German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels, who called at the House to extend congratulations to Lawzi on his appointment as Speaker. Also Tuesday, Lawzi received congratulations from the United Arab Emirates Ambassador Ahmad Jassam Ali and Secretary General of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Hassan Ibrahim. (Petra)

Amman demonstrations voice resounding support for intifada

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In light of the winds of democratisation sweeping Jordan, the past few days the streets of Amman witnessed an uncommon sight — demonstrations supporting the Palestinian intifada.

As the intifada entered its third year this week, public rallies and festivities filled the halls of the Professional Association Complex (PAC), the embassy of the State of Palestine and other private clubs in Amman. After almost every gathering, people, mostly youth, took to the streets shouting anti-Israeli and anti-American slogans.

"America is the head of the snake," and "P.O. Israel no," were the most common slogans shouted by the crowds of people, referring to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the American support for Israel.

The biggest march the capital probably ever witnessed in 19 years took place Monday night after Palestinian folklore troupes performed nationalist songs and dances.

No less than 2,000 people packed the hall of the PAC and its corridors as well as the terrace outside listening and singing along with three well-known Palestinian troupes. Small children no more than five years old knew the words to most of the songs, flashed the V sign with their fingers as they sang along.

The youth stood on chairs inside, waving the Palestinian flag, clapping and singing, and in between songs, chanting pro-Palestinian slogans to a backdrop of yodding by women.

When the performance ended, the youth jumped out of windows, covered their heads and faces with the black and white and red and white checkered kuffiyehs and, in the next four hours or so resounding demonstrated their solidarity with the Palestinians inside the occupied territories by parading through the streets of Amman.

By the time the crowd passed the Ambassador Hotel, it had gathered no less than 12,000 people. They sat down in the middle of the street as Nizar Kayed, (who ran in the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections but did not win), sat on someone's shoulders and addressed the demonstrators.

"The streets of this country have rights, and it is our right to express our feelings on these streets peacefully," Kayed told the cheering crowd.

Police blocked off the street, diverting traffic so as not to disturb the demonstration.

The march continued past the Al Hussein Sports City intersection to the Palestine embassy in Jabal Hussein with women of all ages linking arms in the lead. During the entire march, more people — men, women and children — joined the demonstration.

"With our souls and blood, we will redeem the martyrs. With our souls and blood, we will sacrifice for Palestine," the crowd chanted.

"Palestine and Jordan, one people, not two," and "No to Arab silence," and "Long live the intifada, the popular revolution," and "Our people, march, march until self-determination," were some of the most-heard slogans as masked youth, carried shoulder-high, waving the Palestinian and Jordanian flags.

The crowd observed one minute of silence for the martyrs of the intifada. Every so often, the crowd would sit down in the street to hear speeches and nationalist poems. Majed Al Majali stood among the demonstrators and enthusiastically recited poems paying tribute to the oppressed, and received cheers and claps. One middle-aged woman was so overwhelmed by the phrases, that she got up and donated her expensive-looking ring to support the intifada.

Another young man gave a speech hailing the intifada and the Palestinians who have "sacrificed blood for the cause of independence," and urged the continuation of peaceful marches.

"When a crowd as this is allowed to demonstrate in late hours in these streets, it is democracy," he said. "We deserve this democracy, and we must preserve it. We must continue to express solidarity in this manner because Palestinians and Jordanians are one people, one family."

The demonstrators stopped in front of the Palestine Hospital to cheer Palestinians injured in the intifada being treated at the hospital.

A strong sense of unity was evident among the people as they spoke enthusiastically of how they tracked the demonstration at this or that point and joined in. Some of the people, especially women — carrying babies — befriended each other.

The demonstration, like the others during the week, was not preorganised and no one person or party was in charge. When the crowd milled around the PAC, half of the people wanted to march to the American embassy, but were convinced because, as one of the young participants told the Jordan Times, "when we march to

the American embassy, we want to protest against their support for Israel. Therefore, we have to be more organised and do it during the day during the embassy's working hours. It will be more effective."

But the anti-American slogans were clear during the march, criticising the U.S. support for Yitzhak Shamir's plan for elections for the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"No to the Baker plan, no to Shamir. Baker, out, out, the people decided revolution," they shouted, adding that "we want peace on our own terms."

"We are refugees, and we will return," they chanted.

Early this week, the Palestine embassy held a rally in support of the intifada. Over 1,000 people — among them high-ranking PLO officials, ambassadors, members of the Lower and Upper House of Parliament, prominent diplomats and Jordanian personalities — heard speeches by Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Suleiman Arar, North Yemeni Ambassador Ali Abu Lahoum, and Palestinian lawyer Ibrahim Bakr, who was expelled from the occupied territories by the occupation authorities.

The crowd cheered the speakers as they expressed solidarity and support for the intifada, and a group of young men in the back of the hall chanted pro-Palestinian slogans.

A group of mostly young people gathered outside the embassy after the rally and began demonstrating and marching towards the Hussein refugee camp, gathering more people with them as they entered the camp.

The following evening, two separate rallies were held: one was at the RAC and deputies Laith Shbeilat and Mansour Murad, Doctors Association President Mamdouh Al Abadi and Agricultural Engineers Association President Tarek Al Tal addressed the gathering.

The other rally was held at the Hussein refugee camp. Deputies Taher Al Masi, Deeb Marji, Bassam Haddadin and Sheikh Yacoub Qarash had the entire crowd in the hall roaring and clapping.

At the end of the two rallies, crowds again gathered in the streets and demonstrated. The march from the PAC, which gathered around 200 people, continued until the Hussein refugee camp, where the two demonstrations met and ended peacefully around midnight.

Listening to the stories of the "vanishing" passport is even more intriguing. In most cases, the stories

Seminar opens on role of private sector in Jordan's energy projects

15% energy production from Rishah Gas Fields

AMMAN (Petra) — Natural gas produced at Al Rishah Fields, near the Iraqi borders, has contributed by at least 15 per cent to the total energy and electricity production in the Kingdom, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher announced Tuesday.

The gas has been used to turn turbines and generate electricity, thus saving the country some \$20 million worth of alternate energy resources for the electricity generating process, the minister said in an address to the opening session of a seminar on the role of the private sector in energy projects in the Kingdom.

The Jordanian government, Taher noted, has also been giving increasing attention to the exploitation of the oil-shale found in abundance in the Kingdom, despite the high cost of producing energy from the rock.

The minister told the two-day meeting that Jordan expects some \$500 million to be invested in electric energy projects in the Kingdom between 1990 and the end of the century.

Working papers dealing with

electricity energy production presented by delegates representing the World Bank, the United States, Pakistan, Malaysia, the Philippines and Turkey will be reviewed by the participants from Arab, Asian and European countries who are taking part in the meeting according to Mr. Mohammad Saeed Arafat, director-general of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) which organised the meeting.

Arafat said he will present a working paper reviewing electricity production in the Kingdom, plans for investments in electricity projects in the coming stage and main problems facing JEA.

Chief JEA Engineer Mohammad Azzam said at the meeting that the seminar was organised in the light of a feasibility study on the exploitation of shale in Jordan to produce electricity.

The study was prepared by JEA in cooperation with a number of world consultancy firms and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Azzam pointed out.

He told the meeting that various tests on burning oil shale to produce electricity conducted in West Germany and other countries proved to be feasible although the cost of setting up power stations based on shale was almost double that of ordinary power stations run by oil fuel.

Azzam said JEA welcomes any European offer to set up an experimental station for burning shale to generate electricity.

He said the current meeting will review expertise and experiments in developing nations and contributions to power generation.

Jordan has been producing oil shale in great quantities at the Lajun area, conducting tests with the help of West German companies.

JEA had announced that the transfer of turbines to the Rishah Fields where the gas is used to generate electricity.

Citizens rejoice after getting their impounded passports

By Suhair Obeidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Acting upon directives issued by His Majesty King Hussein to return all impounded passports and allow renewal of others, the Department of Passports and Civil Registration until midday Tuesday returned 125 passports out of a total of 2,714, according to director general of the department Issa Al Omari.

"The total number of (impounded passports) does not exceed 2,714, contrary to some false claims which, at one point, put the figure at 14,000," Omari told the Jordan Times.

According to Omari, the procedures of returning the confiscated passports and those whose renewals were frozen have been simplified. The process begins with an application by the citizen to the department, which in turn retrieves the concerned file from the filing section. Then after a series of bureaucratic procedures, the passport is returned to its original holder. In the case where the passport has expired, the holder has to go through the regular procedures of renewal, Omari explained.

"The procedures might take time," he said. "So, the person is asked to come back the next day to collect the passport, and this is the only reason for delay, if it occurs," he said.

In order to facilitate the matter, the department has extended its office hours by two hours to 4 p.m. "To make it more convenient for those who have to come from distant parts of the Kingdom," Omari said.

However, Omari concedes, "we expect a number of passports not to be claimed. The holder may either be outside the country or simply lost interest in obtaining the document."

Downstairs, a number of men and a couple of women crowded in front of a counter with a high class partition. Passports were piled up and a clerk was shouting the names of people; the concerned person steps forward and collects the green-covered document, which represents a lifeline for many who may not have been able to take up job offers outside the country.

The person has to show up in person and present a document to prove his identity in order to go along with the routine procedures of re-claiming the passport," Omari said.

Watching the reactions of individuals who just got their passports back is quite something. A young man impulsively kissed it and enthusiastically invited his accompanying friend to a celebration that evening.

Another young man puffed a long sigh of relief and quickly hid his passport in the inside of his jacket, as if he was afraid that the counter-clerk might change his mind and take it back.

Listening to the stories of the "vanishing" passport is even more intriguing. In most cases, the stories

involve "total innocence" and "complete ignorance" of the circumstances that led to the confiscation of the passport.

Mohammad Daoud Abdul Raheem, who reclaimed his passport Tuesday after the authorities impounded it five years ago, said: "I was first arrested in 1981 because I participated in a students' movement in one of the community colleges where I used to study computer science," Abdul Raheem said. Adding: "I was released in March 1983, but was arrested again in 1984. It was then that my passport was impounded because I was charged for being affiliated to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP)."

"Now, even after I received my passport, I can't believe I can work and travel just like any other citizen," he sounded sceptical, apparently still dazed by the sudden prospect of "travelling abroad."

"I am planning to travel as soon as possible, but I am coming back of course," he declared. "This country needs us and our efforts to help out through these difficult times."

"We will never leave our dear country despite the fact that it is burdened with debts and some political nuisances. My colleagues and I are going to do our best to serve our country."

Abdul Raheem asserted that he was a member of the "national force the Jordanian Left," and sees that "our presence in the Lower House of Parliament will accelerate the process of implementing our national 'struggle' programme."

"I did not for one day freeze my national struggle and I will continue until democracy prevails in a way that guarantees our dignity as citizens," he replied.

"I hope we will be able to cooperate with the authorities to work hand in hand to self-keep our country."

"We were not confronted as much as we were struggling for the interest of our country," he contended, explaining further his struggle.

"What we are seeking is a democratic country that keeps up with development and progress, one which deals with its citizens within all the provisions of the human rights declaration."

Abdul Rahman Taleb joined in to recite his story: "My passport was impounded in 1982 after I came back from Lebanon during the 1982 war there. I was detained for 26 months in the Mahara Prison without being tried because of my affiliation to the DFLP."

Taleb was released in 1984 and subsequently, by his own admission, participated in what he describes as "popular action" among the union of workers in the field of medical services.

"We were demanding freedoms,

democracy and control over the executive authority," he asserted.

Hind Mahmoud, a woman of about 35 years, complained of "confusion" over her passport. She said she had filed an application Monday and was told to come back Tuesday. "They had found my file Monday, but when I came back today I find my file is 'misplaced' or 'missing'. Now, I have to write another application."

How come her passport was seized in the first place?

"The authorities impounded my passport because they had doubts it was forged, but it is not," she asserted. "The case is that I always carried my passport in my handbag, so it got a little worn out right behind my nuchal. That is all to it."

She added in a matter-of-fact tone that "my husband's passport is also held for exactly the same reason." But she was unable to explain the "strange coincidence" except that she always carried both passports together with her.

Ihsan Jameel Al Isawi said his passport was seized when he applied for permission to travel to Syria in 1984 (at a time when every Jordanian wishing to visit Syria had to obtain a clearance from the General Intelligence Department). "I was accused of being a member of Fateh," a mainstream faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Isawi added.

Isawi is one of six members of the same family whose passports are all impounded. Isawi's brother, applied for his passport three days before the announcement of the decision to return all impounded passports. Through what he described as his "wasta," he was told to wait for the "expected announcement."

He was still going through the procedures when he was interviewed by the Jordan Times.

Another young man who refused to reveal his name was sarcastic. His passport was impounded from 1982 until 1987. When he got it back he renewed it, but they re-impounded it a week later.

"After they took the JD 20 fee for renewing the passport," he chipped in another youth standing by.

A man of about 45 in a black coat and shiny shoes kept on walking past the group talking to the Jordan Times apparently either trying to eavesdrop or making up his mind to talk or not. Sometime later, he appeared to have gathered enough courage and joined the conversation.

But, all he had to say when asked why his passport was impounded was: "The government wished it so."

At this point, it became apparent that the Jordan Times could no longer continue its interviews, particularly because two policemen were cycling the group with obvious suspicion. So, this reporter decided to call it a day!

JD 32m project aims to reduce silting behind King Talal Dam

AMMAN (J.T.) — The on-going Zarqa River Basin development project is designed to upgrade the living standards of the rural population within that basin as well as achieving the other targets of reducing sediments in the King Talal Dam Reservoir and increasing the forestry regions around the basin, according to the Project Director Adnan Arafat.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Arafat said that the JD 32 million project, which is being partly financed by West Germany and a number of Arab funds, aims principally at reducing silting behind the King Talal Dam so that more water can be stored in the reservoir and at the same time carry out afforestation and pasture land projects in the region.

Arafat said that the project,

extending from Sweileh in the south to Sakab in the north, Sukmeeh in the east to the dam itself in the west, has been divided into three stages.

The first stage entails development of 700,000 dunums of land owned and operated by private farmers, soil maintenance, giving advice to local farmers on planting suitable plants, fruit trees and shrubs in the pasture areas.

The second phase entails building forests in an area of 60,590 dunums; and the third part involves measures to prevent soil erosion and the sedimentation of mud in the King Talal Reservoir.

The overall scheme, which runs

to 1993, aims to develop safe land use, soil conservation and improved farming techniques on a farm-by-farm basis.

The reservoir behind the dam is continuously being used to irrigate lands in the Jordan Valley.

The impetus for the project, according to Ministry of Agriculture officials, came originally from the realisation that the King Talal Dam was suffering from a serious silting problem.

It was soon clear that measures were needed to tackle the problem at its source, namely the accelerated erosion in the Zarqa River catchment area.

BANKING SERVICES: A meeting on marketing banking services ended Tuesday at the Jordan Institute of Management. The eight-day meeting aimed to explain several concepts concerning marketing the banking services. (Petra)

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All the world loves a child

DECEMBER 13 marked the day when James Grant, the executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) presented his annual report to the international community on the state of the world's children in which he paid homage and tribute to all the great and outstanding deeds that were rendered in the service of children, their survival, welfare and protection, whether through his specialised agency or through other international, regional or local endeavours. What is even more important in the report is the sounding of the alarm about all the essential and urgent actions and measures that still need to be done for children everywhere.

As the report aptly reminded mankind that "all the world loves a child," it sadly and ominously reminded everyone that the rights and welfare of many millions of children are being systematically violated in the most brutal and inhuman ways by the adult population of the world itself. The report itself is but a chronicle of untold abuses. Children are being exploited, abducted, bought and sold and enlisted in armies and rebel movements. Hundreds of millions of children are still being subjected to all of this till this very late hour. This long and depressing catalogue of suffering and deprivation that so many children of the world are being subjected to is a living testimony that mankind is still living in the darkest of ages. To mention only a few afflictions that befall so many children of the world, malnutrition, ill health and disease and the lack of rudimentary education appear to top the long list of the agonies that many children are suffering from. The tragedy of these children are compounded by the fact that world is investing more than ever on armament, destruction of the environment and technological and industrial pursuits while shoving to the background the cries and tears, and even the lives, of so many of the loved little ones.

To sum up, the tragic story of millions and millions of children in the four corners of the world — including the developed regions of the world — the killing of children intentionally or due to wanton negligence or indifference or allowing, tolerating or turning a blind eye to the many abuses, exploitations or deprivations, whether of education, nutrition or immunisation that children are subjected to is tantamount to killing life per se in its purest and innocent essence.

That is why no matter how great and outstanding are the achievements made for the cause of children, real improvement in the life and welfare of affected children cannot be attained until the phenomenon of perestroika takes deep root in the minds, souls and hearts of adult humans. It is not only the material things that children need, whether in the form of food and shelter, medicine or education, but rather the positive emotions and healthy affections of the grown-ups. Without proper and balanced emotional nutrition and without love and affectionate caring, affected children would continue to be deprived even when their hunger for food and education has been satisfied and their health has been protected and taken care of, and abuse and exploitation have ended. If there is a singular omission in the report of UNICEF it is the absence of enough reference to the psychological and emotional needs of affected children.

Still, what UNICEF through its devoted leader James Grant or, his many able and committed deputies and assistants, has done to the children of the world is so miraculous. Their persistence, devotion and perseverance have awakened the consciousness of governments and peoples of the world to the plight of children everywhere. This was best summarised by His Majesty King Hussein's words of tribute to UNICEF when he said Tuesday that the report of Mr. Grant to the nations of the world riveted mankind's hope and aspiration that life will triumph over death and hope over despair. What better tribute can one pay to the leaders and staff of UNICEF than to recall these Royal words on the occasion of the submission of the report to the world.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Tuesday hailed a decision by the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran to scrap a former decision by the economic security committee of Aug. 24, 1988 and reinstated the former boards of the three Arabic dailies. The paper said that the decision is bound to boost the government's popularity which, the paper needs, is nation-wide now, and gaining momentum. The paper said that the return of the former boards, management and editors would pave the way for a new era for the Jordanian press and would help strengthen the stand of the Jordanian journalists, giving them more freedoms as promised by King Hussein in his letter of designation to the government. The paper said that Al Ra'i will continue to serve as a free forum for all constructive action and will confront all forms of regionalism, sectarianism and terrorism. The paper pledged to adopt a responsible stand which is bound to contribute most positively towards the ongoing process of construction and development.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily on Tuesday bails the creation of a pan-Arab front for the support of the Palestinian intifada and says that the Baghdad-based front does not encompass all groups regardless of their political or religious affiliations. Mahmood Rimawi notes that the creation of the front came late, after the lapse of two years of intifada life, but he points out that its presence is bound to boost the Palestinian people's resistance activity and strengthen the FLO's stand and struggle. The writer says that the front which groups representatives of various Arab countries ought to embark immediately on its task and try by all possible means to enlarge its base by including various Arab groups and by transcending all ideological differences that might linger among the Arab states.

War and peace

By Shimon Peres

NEITHER RUSSIA nor Hungary, nor Poland nor Czechoslovakia has brought about the global metamorphosis that is taking place today. It is the changes that have taken place in the world as a whole that have spurred developments in those countries. It was these changes, too, that have brought to the fore leaders like Mikhail Gorbachev and Lech Walensa. These are people who understood the challenge of transition even before they took the helm.

What, then, are these major changes that have come about in our time that have brought about the transition in global and regional politics?

First and foremost, there has been a change in the nature of information, and in the control of information. The strength of regimes had traditionally been built on the ability to gather information and control its distribution or non-distribution to the people.

Even 20 years ago, it was clear that with the introduction and development of radio, television, video, computers, and satellites, it would no longer be possible to preserve the traditional distinction between those who accumulate knowledge and those who disseminate it. This prediction was realised far more quickly than anyone had expected. In fact, since the rise of the personal computer, every household has had access to more information than any government had at the beginning of this century. Decentralisation of knowledge has superseded dependence on knowledge. And if knowledge is power, then power has become decentralised too.

Information now resembles air: it moves everywhere, under all circumstances and at all times. It has no borders. It makes a mockery of propaganda, because people in any given country can compare their lives with those of people elsewhere. The comparison is done with the aid of the written word, voice and image, and the eye, the ear and the mind cannot all be taken in indefinitely.

Indeed, it is television that has destroyed communism — and its myth. While television is able to create legends, it can also destroy them. It creates, consciously or unconsciously, visual distinctions between myth and reality.

The East Germans saw West German supermarkets and asked themselves how Germans in one part of the country could enjoy shops crammed with good things, while their own shelves were bare.

The Russians asked themselves why their country, almost 70 times the size of Japan, lags so far behind the Japanese.

Unless all the means of communication are destroyed or men are denied the power of sight, it will be impossible to go back to totalitarian regimes which derived their power from a diet of propaganda and lies. Even the most efficient of secret police organisations cannot overcome open communication, because the secret police represent everything that has become outdated, and open communication represents everything that is new.

There has been another

change: the communications revolution has brought about changes in government. The totalitarian system has met with complete failure. Russia has despaired of dictatorship, not because it has suddenly turned its back on the idea of dictatorship, but because dictatorship has so clearly failed in the very area in which it promised success: the field of economics. Hunger, not only repression; shortage, not only lack of choice, are consequences of dictatorship which the communist system cannot hide.

It has become clear that millions of people were killed in vain, millions of people futilely arrested. The sacrifices were in vain. They did not bring prosperity to either the people or to the state. And when the truth is concealed, or ignored, the regime becomes affected by sclerosis. And certainly the dictatorships of the right look like an insult to the human race: Mussolini lies in his grave as a buffoon, Hitler — a monster, and Khomeini — a nightmare.

We are witness not to the end of history, but to the end of violent repressive and dictatorial history.

Modern communications were not discovered in gold mines; they were invented by man.

The major source of wealth now lies not in an abundance of nature's treasures but in human resources. It is not what man can extract from the ground but what he can produce from himself which determines wealth or poverty.

Modern economics are also built more on software than on hardware. It depends on global competition more than on local defence.

Today's economic system is run as one big, open continent. Both size and openness are advantages, and whoever wants to impose restraints will not be able to market. Any country that wants to shut itself in will find itself shut out by others. The world market today has more influence over the economy of a nation than its national government.

There has been yet another change. Since the source of wealth is no longer territory but knowledge, what role is there for the military in this modern world? Classical strategy has been buffeted on a number of fronts. Nearly everything which is important today is not attainable through military means — most of what armies could achieve has lost much of its significance. An army is not a university or a laboratory. It does not concern itself with basic research, nor with improving technology for its own sake. It does not produce and it does not distribute goods, and territorial expansion is no longer an important goal today.

The miniaturisation of a product is more advantageous than the increase of territory. There is thus no point in conquering countries which are not one's own and being forced to pay the price of the conquest.

Russia has not only pulled out of Afghanistan, it has also pulled out of Poland. America has not only left Vietnam, it has not intervened in Nicaragua or Panama. Once the threat against territories diminishes, so does the need for efforts to defend them.

The elements of classical strategy have lost much of their value. Of what value is strategic depth when a modern rocket flies over mountains and rivers? Of what value is time — if the rockets swallow distances in minutes, or even seconds? And of what value is numerical superiority if nuclear or hydrogen warheads can wipe out major population centres? With modern weaponry it is impossible to achieve victory or, indeed, to justify it. It is possible only to destroy, and to be destroyed.

The price of modern weaponry has also become a critical factor. Submarines, aircraft, rockets, radar have all become so expensive that it is possible to lose a war without even conducting it. The price of building and maintaining a modern army can weaken the national economy, the same economy which must supply the resources needed for the existence of that army.

No wonder, then, that statesmen have concluded that the best thing today is gradually to dismantle armaments, or most of them, and to establish relations between nations on a basis of demilitarisation and economic cooperation.

Finally, the change that has brought about all these other changes, the engine that drives the metamorphosis train, is without a doubt science. This engine has not yet come to a halt. The opposite is true: it is moving ahead at full speed. Although today we possess more knowledge than any previous generation in history, we also know that what we don't know is infinitely more than that which we do.

The world is no longer static. It does not live in caves. It does not camp by rivers, it is not afraid of mountains, it does not stop at borders and it is not bound by horizons. Even the atom is not the limit of the minuscule, nor is outer space the limit of the vast. And neither one of them is real estate.

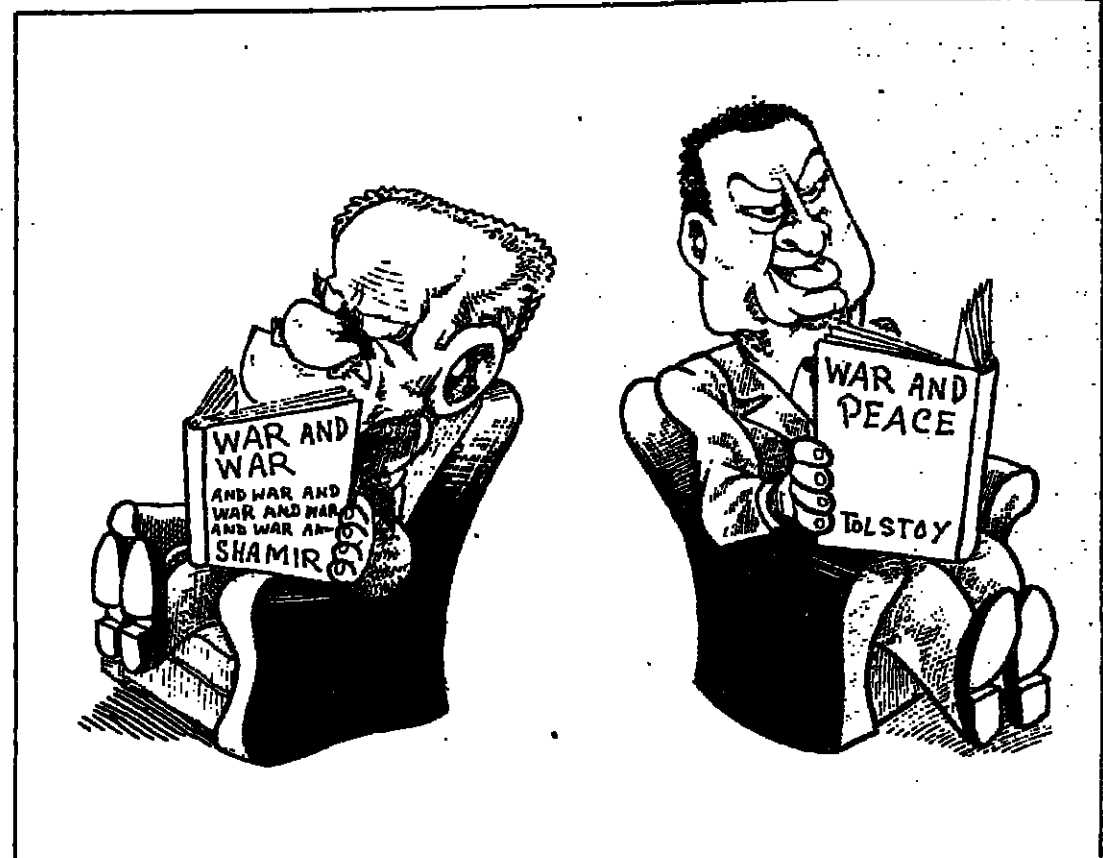
There are some among us who claim that the world at large has changed whereas our own world has stayed just the way it was. That is utter nonsense. Even if there are some among us who have not changed, whether they know it or not they are living in a changed world.

Information from the outside world does reach into the Arab World. Young Arabs appreciate, more than ever, that another hejira is necessary, to leap from yesterday's world to today's. There are more and more Arabs who understand that it is not sufficient to give birth and be born — it is also necessary to engage in physical, biological and spiritual pursuits. Television is not subordinate to the Jihad. It disseminates all the different religions and it makes comparisons between all regions.

Modern communications are undermining, and will continue to undermine, all the undemocratic regimes of the Middle East.

Tanks may be good in a display of might, but they do not provide food; they are, moreover, so expensive that they devour the little food there is. No matter how brightly they polish their swords, leaders must respond to the rumblings of empty bellies.

Sooner or later what happened



in Eastern Europe will happen in the Middle East.

Even today, more and more Arabs understand that the source of power and prosperity is science and education. The Arab World has huge territories — 10 million square kilometres in all. They remain ten million square kilometres of poverty. The huge natural population growth provides no compensation for the terrible poverty — it adds to it. If the population of Egypt has increased sevenfold in the twentieth century — has its power increased sevenfold, or has its poverty increased sevenfold?

The polarised world, the world that lived on the tension between the super-powers, ensured that our region would be polarised as well. The United States and the Soviet Union, each in its own way, attempted to acquire assets and establish advantages in this region. The U.S. tried to achieve this with an even-handed approach, by maintaining deeply friendly ties with Israel while maintaining friendly relations with Arab states as well. The Soviet Union tried to achieve this through a one-sided policy by strengthening its relations with the Arab countries, even at the expense of relations with Israel.

The Soviet Union which has concluded that there is no longer any point in maintaining polarised international tension, is the same Soviet Union which is trying to extricate itself from its previous one-sided Middle East policy. If Moscow is prepared to come to terms with the changes in its stature in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria or East Germany, why should it pay a high price to maintain its position in Syria, in Libya or in Ethiopia. The countries of the Middle East cost them dear, nor do they promise assets which are capable of withstanding the test of time.

The recent speech by the Soviet ambassador to Syria revealed the change in the Soviet position vis-a-vis Syria; the Arab country to which it is closest. Although the Russians later tried to soften what he had said, they did not recant. He told the Syrians: abandon the military approach, follow the path of statesmanship; do not seek strategic balance with Israel, make do with self-defence: the Soviet Union will no longer provide you with weaponry on credit, only for cash. This was a profound political statement.

To these changes, another basic change has been added: the Soviet Union has ceased to be the model of government for those Arab states which tried to imitate it. Its economic failure, its felicitous departure from the politics of power, the openness which is altering the character of its government — all these have distanced it from a seductive idealisation and over-simplified idealisation for those who are seeking a model for government.

A Middle East without Soviet one-sidedness, without Soviet military credit, without communist dictatorships — is an altogether different place.

Peace in the region is now no longer just an American dream — it is now also a Soviet interest.

There is no point in denying the possibility that changes in Soviet policy will generate changes in American policy as well. The U.S. will seek fewer "strategic assets" and will prefer more democratic allies. (I have always held that Israel must be a moral force and must present itself as such.) The change in the character of the foreign presence in the Middle East will compel the nations of the region to confront themselves, their values and their resources. Solutions of local origin will have to be found for problems of local origin.

It will be difficult to count on money and credit from outside, on one-sided political support, on a flow of arms regulated by local caprices. And, as each Arab state confronts itself, it will find out that constant growth in military strength, alongside large population growth, is a real threat to progress and to any regime which persists on that path.

The Middle East, if it wants to survive, must re-organise as an economic entity instead of continuing to have a military split personality. I believe — although at this moment it looks as distant as unlikely as the vision of a new Europe looked two years ago — that what has happened in Europe will occur in the Middle

East: a process of demilitarisation in respect of foreign policy; a process of democratisation in internal affairs; a lowering of economic barriers; a process of increasing access to information.

I am convinced that the Middle East has no choice but to establish a common market, and to operate economically along the short and natural transportation routes through the region. Instead of trying to compete with powerful economic systems that are more advanced and distant, it will try to establish a large, advanced economy of its own.

We, of course, cannot dictate to the Arabs what to do, but it is imperative that Israel understands what is happening in the world and what is happening in our region. Israel can isolate itself, and turn into an antiquated but picturesque locality. Israel has always been a symbol of progress, and we must not allow this to be taken away from us by those who wish to freeze the situation as it now is. Yesterday's policies must not turn Israel into a backwater. With all the importance of what is happening in the Gaza Strip, what is happening in the world is more important. Gaza will not change the world. The world will change Gaza.

It is not the number of kilometres alone which will determine Israel's fate, but people's attitudes, and the relationships between people which will determine whether Israel invests in science or in the intifada, in the absorption of immigrants or in pointless arguments over semantics.

We must decide today, and on a large scale. Our region will change for the better. It is in our best interests to draw our conclusions from these changes — and the sooner the better.

It is possible to open negotiations with the Palestinians. There is no point in putting this off because of fine points of Israelology. If the Palestinians go to the polls, it will be a serious test of the internal and foreign policies of our neighbours. Democracy is not an addition to violence, but a substitute for it. Government based on elections is a first and essential step towards a long line of change ahead — The Jerusalem Post

How Israelis identify with apartheid racists

By Elfi Pallis

The following article is an address made by the author at a seminar held earlier this year under the sponsorship of the London-based Council for the Advancement of Arab British Understanding. The writer is an Israeli media consultant.

AS the relationship between Israel and South Africa becomes better known the same type of question keeps popping up in any discussion of it. How can Israelis, who themselves have suffered so much from racism, possibly condone their government's relationship with the apartheid regime? Has it no abhorrence at what is being done to South Africa's black population? Opponents of racism have tended to explain this fact mainly in two ways. Firstly, by the very substantial economic and military benefits that Israel derives from the relationship. Secondly, they note that Boers and Israeli Jews share a belief in their biblical right as God's "chosen people" to dispossess the indigenous population.

These are certainly relevant factors, but they don't really explain the intensity of the relationship given that most Israelis are not all that religious, and given that not all of them are in fact materialistic: this is not quite enough. Yet the fact is that in Israel there has never been even one decent-sized demonstration against the visit of a South African politician, unlike in any western country. Instead almost every sector of Israeli society maintains some links with South Africa. I am not just talking about the government, business and the army: I am talking about the

Israel's economic and social policy

To understand the Israeli relationship with the apartheid regime, the attitude taken by the Israeli public, we need to look quite closely at the lesser known aspects of Israel's internal structure and for the better known ones, I would like to point you to the numerous books written by Dr. Uri Davis on discrimination in Israel.

One of the least known aspects is the situation as it relates to water. It is very difficult for Israelis to get worked up about the dispossession of black South Africans given that they have not just confiscated most of the land belonging originally to Palestinians in Israel proper, they have confiscated over half of the land in the West Bank, and they have also siphoned off 83 per cent of West Bank subterranean water for use in Israel. Of the water that

remains, Israeli settlers are given three times as much per capita as are local Palestinians. The result of such policies is obvious; the progressive desertification of Palestinian agriculture, of what remains of it, and in many places severe shortages of good drinking water.

It is also difficult for Israelis to get worked up about South Africa's pass laws, given that Israel has something that is not entirely dissimilar. Under Israel's land laws, Palestinians from the occupied territories may work in Israel but they may not spend the night there. Permission to do that is only very rarely granted, usually in exchange for collaboration. Palestinians who observe this law may find themselves travelling up to three hours each way, which makes for a 14-hour working day. It is something that the ILO has condemned several times in its reports. Many Palestinians do break these laws, if only because their employers want them there very early in the morning at their beck and call. These workers sleep on the factory floor among the machines, in old air-raid shelters or in any old wooden shed. If they are caught by Israeli police, the punishment they can expect is three months in jail. There is no punishment for the employer, who may have provided the accommodation. The police may not prosecute them but the cases of being robbed and brutalised as a result of this vulnerable situation are so numerous that they are hardly mentioned in the Israeli press. To give you an idea,

in one incident which occurred about a year ago, and was raised in the Israeli Knesset by an opposition member, it was revealed that the police, who were raiding prospective illegal worker accommodation, had not just robbed the people they had found there, sleeping in between jobs, but had forced them to strip naked. They made them lick the floor, eat powdered coffee and generally humiliated them in every possible way. Not that anyone was ever prosecuted for this incident because, as I said, they are not rare. In fact far worse things can happen to Palestinians who choose to enter Israel (and what a choice!) to sleep in Israel even though they are not allowed to do so under its pass-law system. At least five people have suffocated as a result of trying to heat some wretched air-raid shelter in winter even though it had no ventilation. Last August three Palestinian workers in the small town of Or Yehuda burned to death when some right-wingers set fire to their shed because they did not want Arabs in their town.

As for any horror at South Africa's racist Immorality Act, prohibiting mixed marriages, one has to remember that Israel is not all that liberal on this issue either. It is not possible for Jews and Arabs to marry one another in Israel, even if they are citizens of the same state. Marriages can only be conducted between members of the same religion, and it is certainly extremely difficult, even if you wanted to, to convert to Judaism under Israeli Orthodox

religious laws. Theoretically people can go abroad, but since most relationships are formed among the poorer section of the population, Palestinian workers meeting women workers in Israel, they are not in a position to take a plane abroad in order to marry in Paris instead: these are very poor people and their options depend on what is available in their country.

Deprived of any legitimacy as a result of this policy, Jewish-Arab relations incite a lot of resentment and not rarely end in tragedy as a result. One study shows that almost all landlords will refuse to let a room to a mixed couple and they can almost certainly expect to lose their jobs — it's a small country and it is difficult to keep these things secret especially since people's identity cards tell you who they are. Arabs seen with Jewish women are frequently attacked in public and at least one woman has had her apartment burnt out, for being accused of having an Arab boyfriend. The head of the Jerusalem Rabbinical Council — who are the men in charge of marriages — has referred publicly to mixed marriages as "a cancer within the nation". Not surprisingly Israeli newspapers have reported a number of suicides among people who have gone through this sort of experience, who have been partners in a "mixed couple," as it is defined in Israel.

The Israeli army also feels entitled to interfere. Last year Israeli soldiers forcibly removed

Israeli women of 29, who had moved to Khan Yunis to be with her Arab partner, from the area and returned her to Tel Aviv. She was told that she had no right to live there — unlike a right-wing settler. Raised within this kind of structure most Israelis now find it quite possible even to condone the shooting of children whether it is in South Africa or in the intifada. Israel's two main parties, Labour and Likud, certainly stand for this kind of policy. As the head of the Israeli Human and Civil Rights League, Professor Israel Shahak, recently put it, how can an Israeli who has voted for Labour, the party of Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, possibly object to anything that is being done in South Africa? A small number of Israelis nevertheless genuinely are anti-apartheid, but they feel obliged to campaign mainly against the policies of their own country.

Israel's smaller left-wing political parties, notably the Citizens Rights Party, Hadash, the Progressive List and, more recently, also Mapam, have a record of opposing Israeli relations with South Africa, of opposing visits, of opposing collaboration with the apartheid regime. But given the situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip today they cannot give it the kind of priority many of them feel it deserves. And as one sees what is happening today under Israeli rule to Palestinians it is increasingly difficult to blame them for putting their priorities else-

An Arab writer speaks

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The writings of the internationally renowned Sudanese writer Tayeb Salih were well-received and accepted in the Arab World, although his work is considered as avant-garde by many.

Salih said he was "flattered" to realise that what he has written has been well-received all over the Arab World. The author, however, does not see his work as avant-garde.

"Maybe I'm a little adventurous," Salih, author of five books, told the Jordan Times on a recent working visit to Jordan. He added that he does not believe that he belongs to any category of writers because he just likes to write what he wishes to, without being a member of any school.

Some of Salih's books were translated to 20 languages, from English and German to Russian and Japanese. Among the translated works are the famous two novels, "Season of Migration to the North," and "The Wedding of Zein".

He was not sure why other nationalities took interest in his novels, but "I suppose other people find, in my modest effort, things which mean something to them. I think it is accepted that all humanity is the same at a certain level".

"So maybe readers in English, Russian or French have found in my work things that are either different from what they know

season of migration to the north

Tayeb Salih



but sufficiently interesting to them, or things they could identify with," Salih said.

Salih added that he does not concentrate on folklore. To him, the word has acquired a certain connotation which is somewhat exotic. He explained that he is

not only not interested in the exotic, but he is against it.

"I'm presenting a community in the northern Sudan as I know it, hoping that the particular, the specific, would have some universal meaning," he said.

The author explained that in

his writings, he is concerned with what goes on in the Sudan in particular and the Arab World in general, "and maybe with the meanings which concern people in the Third World at large".

Salih indicated that the problems and issues in the Third World are known: questions of development, how to cope with authority after the colonial regimes — issues that he believes concern the minds of writers in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

"The Wedding of Zein" was made into a film, which apparently won several prizes in different film festivals in Europe and North Africa. Did the film satisfy him as the writer of the novel? It did, generally.

"The director of the film, a well-known Kuwaiti director in the Arab World and beyond, Khalid Siddiq, has to a great extent managed to interpret my ideas in film form. Naturally, the film emphasises the visual part, probably the ideological part, meaning a part where the idea suffers a little," Salih said.

He added that a writer is always responsible for what he or she writes in print, and that what happens to the work in another medium is the responsibility of whoever has done it.

Salih is in the process of writing a "very long" novel, of which two parts have already been published.

The writer is currently working for UNESCO, and previously held a position at the BBC in London. He also worked in Qatar and Sudan.

"What I do besides writing is the main thing because most of my life I was an official of some sort, and held reasonably responsible and busy jobs. Now I earn my living from UNESCO because, as you know, an Arab writer cannot live on writing alone," he said.

For better, for worse

"ALL THE world loves a child" — or so the saying goes. The reality is very different. In country after country, children are beaten, tortured, sexually abused, exploited in factories, abandoned by their parents. They are abducted, sold, conscripted into armies, sent across minefields, killed in armed conflicts.

Every year, nearly 14 million children die of more mundane causes — hunger, disease, and neglect. Many millions more live on with poor health, stunted in mind and body. For lack of a decent education, millions of children are condemned, every year, to a lifetime of ignorance and deprivation.

The catalogue of children's sufferings is a long and depressing one. But during the past decade public and official attitudes towards children have begun to change in many countries. Children's basic rights — to survival, health, education, and protection against abuse and exploitation — are beginning to find their way onto the agendas of the world's political leaders. A new ethic is emerging, says this year's State of the World's Children report from UNICEF, in which the health and wellbeing of a nation's children is regarded as the most significant measure of its level of development.

"Protecting the growing minds and bodies of the rising generation," says the report, "should have first claim on a society's concern and children should be able to depend upon that commitment in good times and in bad, in times of peace and in times of war, in times of prosperity and times of recession."

One of the most explicit expressions of this new ethic is the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which has now been presented to the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York. The convention is the final outcome of ten years of painstaking negotiations between scores of governments, U.N. agencies and non-governmental organisations. It is, says the UNICEF report, "the first agreement among the nations of the world on the legally defined rights of the child."

The convention covers three main areas:

First, the right to life — the most basic of all human rights. The convention recognises the child's right to adequate food, water, health care, and shelter.

Second, the right to develop one's potential — through education, freedom of information and

expression, and freedom of conscience and religion. The convention also stipulates that parents shall give "due weight" to the views of children, in accordance with their age and maturity.

Third, protection against violence, abuse, and exploitation in all its many forms, the convention also covers the rights of mentally or physically disabled children, refugees, and those who are parentless or separated from their parents. It also recognises that in some cases children need to be protected from their parents, and that some parents may be unable to take proper care of their children.

Once ratified by 20 countries, the convention enters into force and becomes binding in each ratifying country. A committee on the rights of the child, composed of ten international experts serving in their personal capacities, will be established to monitor the steps taken in individual countries to observe the terms of the convention.

But there is a role for everyone in giving teeth to this new, internationally approved legal code of children's rights.

Political leaders and legal experts can ensure that their countries' own laws on children are brought into line with the convention.

Educationalists can incorporate the rights of children into school and college curricula.

The mass media can report on how far the convention is being observed, nationally, and focus attention on specific abuses.

Concerned individuals and organisations can lobby governments and supply the media with information.

Trade unions and employers federations can negotiate agreements on the protection of children and mothers in the workplace.

Individual governments can establish a high-level authority, such as an ombudsman for children, to monitor and encourage the implementation of the convention.

"Like many other such documents in history," says UNICEF, "the convention is a statement of an ideal which few nations have achieved. But as more and more nations ratify its text and begin to enact its provisions into national law, and as press and public become more concerned to ensure its observance, it will gradually become the standard below which any civilised nation, rich or poor, will be ashamed to fall" — UNICEF feature.



"After ten years of detailed negotiations, the Convention on the Rights of the Child has finally been brought before the General Assembly of the United Nations. Setting minimum standards of protection for children's survival, health and education, as well as providing explicit protection against exploitation at work, against physical or sexual abuse, and against the degradations of war, the Convention is the first agreement among the nations of the world on the legally defined rights of the child. Like many such documents in history, it is the statement of an ideal. But as more and more nations enact its provisions into national law, and as press and public become more concerned to ensure its observance, the Convention may gradually become the standard below which any civilised nation, rich or poor, will be ashamed to fall."

(Claude Sauvageot)

Conserving a heritage

WHEN PEOPLE come in to the new hotel and leisure complex being planned for a seaside plot on Agaba Bay, they will see the old and the new together according to Yacht Club President, Mr. Anis Mousher.

The Yacht Club has been fastidious in incorporating the ruins of ancient Ayla, an Islamic port city that bustled with activity from 650 to 1,000 A.D., into its construction plans. "There is a fine doorway," Mousher elaborated, referring to the Hijaz Gate in the south eastern city wall, "that we may work into the design for the entranceway or the hotel lobby."

"As president of the Conservation Society," Mousher said, "I want to conserve our heritage. It's our duty." In this case it seems, duty and conservation efforts will combine to produce a very special ambience in a complex Mousher refers to as the "heart of Agaba." When complete, the hotel and its adjoining plaza, of restaurants, coffee shops, and gift shops, will attract vacationers and business travellers in

search of evening entertainment after a day on Agaba's seashore, or in meetings.

According to Dr. Bert DeVries, Director, the American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR) was the coordinator that brought together the diverse interest groups — the Yacht Club; the hotel builders, the Agaba Regional Authority, and the Departments of Tourism and Antiquities; and the team of excavators led by Dr. Donald Whitcomb — with a stake in the Ayla site. "I think this role as coordinator has become an important part of ACOR's cultural resources programme," said Dr. DeVries. "We assist in the finding solutions to the problem of preserving the antiquities and having the property owner or owners satisfied that the property is being well used from the owners' point of view." To that end, ACOR does comprehensive design work for antiquities sites that include all surrounding properties, roads, etc. so that the total en-

vironment works together.

ACOR and the Yacht Club very rapidly developed a cooperative understanding regarding their mutual interest in preserving versus destroying the antiquities. Dr. DeVries hailed the Yacht Club's flexibility in incorporating the antiquities into their plans for the site. Yacht Club plans have been revised somewhat since the discovery of Ayla, to blend the new construction with the seventh and tenth century ruins which extend into a corner of the Yacht Club property.

Because imminent development threatened the archaeological site, ACOR designated Ayla a high priority for excavation and study in 1987, according to Dr. DeVries. That season's efforts produced artifacts exhibited first in Chicago, and now in the care of the Department of

Antiquities pending their installation in the Visitor's Centre at the Sharif Hussein house to open soon in Agaba.

The ruins, most of which lie on the property adjoining the Yacht Club land, have been partially excavated and restored by archaeologists associated with ACOR and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Oriental Research Institute in Chicago. Because the native granite and sandstone walls deteriorate rapidly when exposed, major restoration work including removing rotting masonry, replacing fallen stones, and capping the walls with cement was undertaken in 1988. The city's Sea Gate was also excavated during that season. Extensive excavation, clearing of sand, restoration of walls, and installation of visitor signs was carried out in 1989.

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Wall Street seers express Pessimism

NEW YORK (AP) — Pessimism is the message for 1990 from Wall Street, with major brokerages forecasting an economic downturn and some an outright recession.

In their annual year-ahead forecasts, the firms that both engineer multibillion-dollar deals and advise individual investors aren't in total agreement, but none is optimistic.

The consensus view of Wall Street's seers is that slow economic growth, a weak dollar overseas and slumping corporate profits will combine to retard the economy and the stock market at the start of the new decade.

Kidder, Peabody and Co. predicts very slow growth in the range of one per cent but not a "dictionary definition" of a recession. The firm's inflation estimates vary from just over three per cent to over four per cent, on the low side of Wall Street expectations.

Stefan Abrams, Kidder's chief investment strategist, said a key

issue will be wage and employment pressures, and that more job cuts such as the recent 10,000 announced by IBM and more than 30,000 at AT&T and T could provoke a full-scale recession.

Economists are in agreement about groups of stocks that will do well in 1990: Growth companies in areas such as pharmaceuticals and beverages, and recent "fallen angels" such as Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc. or Dun and Bradstreet Corp.

"After an eight-year run reflecting a seven-year economic expansion, my view is there ain't much out there that is unexploited," Abrams said. "We've had a long time to rotate everybody into one dance."

Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc. is the leading 1990 naysayer among the big firms. Its report on 1990, released Tuesday, is titled "What If Bear Market?" and features a drawing of a teddy bear on the cover. The firm predicts a recession.

Abby Joseph Cohen, Drexel's chief investment strategist, forecast that corporate profits will decline to earnings per share of \$22 and 50 cents for the Standard

and Poor's 500 stock index, significantly lower than firms' predictions in the \$25 range.

"We believe that profits have already peaked and that consensus expectations are too high," Cohen writes.

Drexel's recommendation: Buy stocks in companies whose earnings and revenues are not likely to be harmed by an economic slowdown or recession, such as soft drinks, pharmaceuticals and emerging industries such as biotechnology.

Also contributing to a recession, Drexel says, is a declining money flow due to factors such as bearish foreign sentiment on the dollar, weakness in domestic demand for goods, lower corporate profits and soft real estate prices.

Merrill Lynch and Co., the largest Wall Street firm, is slightly more sanguine. "We should escape a full-fledged recession, but it may be a close call," chief economist Donald Straszheim wrote last week.

Returns on stocks should be below average next year, Merrill predicted, with a change in market leadership to capital goods and energy stocks from consumer and financial issues. Its recommendation: Companies offering growth potential.

PaineWebber Inc. chief economist Edward Kerschner was the most chipper of his peers,

saying in a "Happy New Year" memo to staffers that "before spring, lower interest rates and the outlook for upturn in the economy could be fuel for the next leg of the bull market."

Kerschner predicted the stock market could end 1990 10 per cent to 15 per cent higher than at the start.

The rapidly changing political

situation in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe was a wild card cited by several economists.

The Soviet Union needs Western technology to rebuild its economy, they said, and faster growth in Poland, East Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia could benefit the U.S. economy. Some economists say bonds should benefit because lower

U.S. defence spending should reduce the federal deficit, and therefore reduce interest rates, while stocks should gain based on both lower interest rates and faster global growth.

"It's all very bullish for bonds and stocks — as long as perestroika continues," Kerschner wrote, referring to Soviet restructuring.

GATT frames anti-dumping

GENEVA (R) — Governments risk curbing legitimate competition with some of the measures they take against imports they suspect are being dumped at prices below cost, GATT said Tuesday.

Arthur Dunkel, director-general of the 96-member General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), said procedures which member states used to combat dumping had become broader in scope.

This had led to increased disputes, and had important implications for the international trading system, he said in a report which cited action by the United States, the European Community, Australia and Canada.

GATT rules allow governments to impose duties on goods found to have been dumped at prices below those charged in the suppliers' home markets so as to counteract unfair advantages gained by foreign exporters.

Exporters who deny they are guilty of dumping and consider anti-dumping duties unjustified can challenge such action through GATT procedures for settling trade disputes.

As examples of wider scope of anti-dumping moves, Dunkel cited tighter rules for defining country of origin for items made of parts from different nations and action against "screwdriver plants" where imported components were assembled.

South Korea freezes wages

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The South Korean cabinet announced Monday that salaries of ranking government officials and military generals will be frozen next year at present levels to set an example for industrial workers.

In an emergency session, the cabinet also decided to set up a committee designed to tide over a possible "economic crisis" the cabinet warned the country would face next year if industrial peace is wrecked by serious labour disputes and excessive wage hike demands, officials said.

The emergency steps followed repeated warnings from the government, economic organisations and business corporations that the troubled Korean economy may collapse in the new year unless there is an end to labour disputes and steep wage hikes.

Deputy Prime Minister Cho Soon said after the meeting that the Korean economy's growth rate might fall to five per cent next year if labour disputes are allowed to worsen. Cho also is economic planning minister.

The government expects the economy to grow 6.5 per cent this year, far down from 12.2 per cent growth last year.

Mexican privatisation programme continues

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico is going ahead full speed with its plans to continue selling government-owned companies, in an effort to further cut down on government deficit spending, according to a report.

A treasury department report said the government plans to sell off or close another 42 state-owned enterprises over the next year, according to El Financiero.

In another report, Mexico's private companies reduced their foreign debt by 70.2 per cent over the past six years, and the National Bank of Mexico said the country must continue to promote foreign investment to develop.

To be put on the auction block are banks, insurance companies, investment funds, mining companies, the Mexican coffee institute and lumbering and wood product companies, the treasury department report quoted by El

Financiero said. Jacques Rogozinski, head of treasury department's advisory council, said the Mexican government has sold 619 companies out of the 1,155 it owned in 1982, and hopes to sell another 177 companies, 42 of them in the coming year, the report said.

Other companies the government hopes to spin off in the future include textiles, sulfur, metal foundries, agricultural products and fisheries, the report said.

President Carlos Salinas De Gortari, who took office Dec. 1, has made selling off these money-losing state companies a centerpiece of his administration's programme to revive the stagnant economy.

This year the economy is registering growth for the first time in seven years.

Earlier this year, the government liberalised regulations on company shareholdings, allowing greater foreign investment. Some sectors such as the petroleum industry will be retained by the government as monopolies, but others, like telecommunications and telecommunications are now open for outside participation.

Meanwhile, Mexico's private foreign debt decreased from \$23.9 billion to \$7.1 billion from 1982-88 by dipping into their foreign reserves, while the government's foreign debt grew by 35 per cent, the independent newspaper Excelsior said.

LONDON (R) — Shares in 10 newly privatised water companies in England and Wales made a big splash when they started trading in London Tuesday as some of the 2.7 million small investors who bought stock reaped hefty instant profits.

The controversial sell-off of the companies was the latest in Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's sweeping privatisation programme and the third biggest after British Petroleum and British Gas. Water utilities in Northern Ireland and Scotland were not included in the offer.

The £5.25 billion (\$8.4 billion) flotation was 5.7 times subscribed. Delighted government officials hailed the demand for the shares as a reaffirmation of popular capitalism.

It was at one time the most unpopular of Thatcher's privatisations because feelings ran high about putting the water authorities in private hands.

But an attractive offer price, a promise of lucrative dividends and generous incentives, coupled with easy payment, turned what some analysts had predicted would be a potential flop into a roaring success.

Northumbrian Water Group PLC was the star performer, surging to £1.70 (\$2.72) compared with the £1 (\$1.60) first instalment for which the government sold each share. It was buoyed by takeover speculation.

Other water companies made 40 pence (64 cents) or so on paper for their new owners, but many investors could not take profits immediately as share certificates will only be sent out on Dec. 20.

Any purchaser of the new shares can trade them before he or she receives the certificate but if there is a problem with the original application or a reduced allocation of shares, then the

seller must meet the commitment by buying shares at the prevailing market rate.

By midday 545 million water shares had been traded on the London Stock Exchange, making up more than half the volume of business.

Meanwhile, British retail sales fell sharply last month, signalling what Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major said was a slowdown in the economy as the government battled inflation.

Official figures showed retail sales dropped 0.8 per cent in the runup to Christmas between October and November compared with analysts' forecasts of a 0.1 per cent increase.

This spells lower profits and difficult trading conditions for retail chains but is good news for Major, whose priority is to curb inflation now at an annual rate of 7.3 per cent.

"The economy is slowing down as it necessarily must do if we are to bring inflation down," he told a briefing for the foreign press.

"Retail sales have fallen two months in a row now, which suggests the government's high interest rate policy has slowed

consumer spending perhaps even more than we thought," said Kevin Gardiner an economist at Warburgs.

Earlier the government said that Britain's reserves of gold and foreign currency fell by an underlying \$931 million in November.

The fall, much less than October's record \$2.9 billion drop, was seen as showing reduced Bank of England intervention in the foreign exchange markets to support the value of the pound sterling.

Economists said the latest figure indicated Major may be more inclined to let the pound fall than his predecessor, Nigel Lawson, who resigned at the end of October.

The British currency has slipped by 4.5 per cent, mainly due to the strength of the Deutschmark since Major took over. Lawson was committed to high interest rates as a means of defending the pound.

But analysts warned that the fall in reserves may not reveal the true extent of official support for sterling, as the Bank of England could have sold the pound forward on the futures market.

Human resources hinder growth in world tourism

GENEVA (R) — A shortage of skilled workers threatens to curb the booming world tourism industry, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has said.

An ILO report said skill shortages were a chronic restraint on the hotel and tourism businesses just as they head for a record-breaking year and gear up for expansion in the 1990s.

Hotels regard human resources as the single most important issue they face, the report said.

Despite advances in technology, tourism relied heavily on a relatively young and unskilled work force, making training the key to the industry's success, the report said.

"While notable advances in training have taken place in both industrialised and developing

countries, training systems must adapt quickly if they are to meet the demands of the predicted dynamic growth," it said.

International tourist arrivals increased by 26.8 per cent between 1980 and 1987 and are expected to hit a record high of 400 million this year, the ILO report said.

Government, employer and worker delegates from 27 countries will assess the industry in Geneva this week in the first session of the ILO's hotel, catering and tourism committee.

The new committee reflects the importance of tourism which the ILO expects to surpass all other sectors in economic importance by the end of the century and now employs some 100 million workers, or 6.3 per cent of total world employment.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Jordan ships more cement to Yemen

AMMAN (Petra) — The second shipment of 25,000 tonnes of loose cement left Aqaba port Monday en route to Yemen Arab Republic (YAR). The shipment is part of 150,000 tonnes of cement to be exported to YAR in implementation of an agreement concluded between both Jordan and Yemen.

CBJ promotes export financing

AMMAN (Petra) — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Deputy-Governor Mohammad Saleh Horani Wednesday opens a two-day symposium on export credit guarantee and finance. The symposium will be organised by the CBJ in cooperation with the International Trade Centre and the United Nations Development Programme in Jordan. Taking part in the symposium are representatives from the various ministries and departments concerned in addition to representatives from commercial banks and financial institutions, insurance companies and exporting companies. The symposium is designed to promote exports and to enhance the competitive capacity of these companies.

Financial conference reviews 8 studies

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in the first conference on the role of accountancy and financial and banking operations in economic development Tuesday discussed eight working papers on unifying accounting terms, evaluation of capital expenditure, role of accountancy in developing local investments, the effect of financial policies on economic development, the role of the Audit Commission in monitoring public funds and assessing the efficiency of the performance and a study on rationalisation of consumption.

Jordan, Sudan sign new trade protocol

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Sudan Monday signed a trade protocol covering trade exchange, transport as well as scientific and technical cooperation. The two sides agreed to increase trade exchange in 1989-1990 up to \$60 million on equal basis. Furthermore \$6 million will be allocated for holding exhibitions at the Jordanian Cultural Centre in Khartoum and the Sudanese Cultural Centre in Amman. An additional \$4 million will also be allocated for specialised exhibitions to be held in both countries in 1990. The Sudanese side also emphasised its desire to import all its needs of cement from Jordan. The two sides stressed the importance of launching a maritime line between the ports of the two countries and requested national maritime companies to present their views in this regard. The two sides also stressed the importance of utilising loans given by the Islamic Bank for Development and the Arab Monetary Fund in financing imports and tradings.

Housing Bank secures high ranking

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Bank ranked in 59th position among the first 100 top banks in the Arab World in terms of 1988 financial results, according to a report by the Arab Banking Gazette. The report said that the classification of banks was published in the Euromoney magazine in London last month. It said that the assessment was conducted on the criteria of each bank's holding of American dollars and the volume of its operations. The Housing Bank secured the remarkable position despite the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar against the U.S. currency.

'Optimum reorganisation' sacrifices Chinese women

BEIJING (AP) — Women are being laid off and poorly treated under current state efforts to streamline factory employees, according to a survey taken by the China Women's Journal.

The survey taken in northeast China's Liaoning province found that many women are being laid off by factories that consider them surplus or redundant, the journal said in a report carried by the official China Daily.

It said women were the victims of "optimum reorganisation" of the labour force, a Chinese euphemism for laying off workers.

Very few people are ever fired in the nation's state-run enterprises and laid-off workers usually receive their base pay. However, only 4.5 per cent of the laid-off women continue to get bonuses, a substantial part of their incomes, and welfare benefits.

The report said many women were assigned to unsuitable jobs under the old rigid employment system and thus were the first to be laid-off. At the Benxi steel company, where 36.4 per cent of 140,000 employees are women, 721 women have been forced to take long leaves because they lacked "suitable" work.

An investigation made earlier this year by the All-China National Labour Force Commission found that enterprises considered 20 per cent of their employees to be surplus or redundant, and 64 per cent of those were women. Women make up about 37 per cent of the urban workforce.

Many enterprises are also now refusing to hire women because their maternity leave and early retirement drive up welfare costs.

The Shanghai Women's Association, in another recent survey of 400 companies in China's largest city, found that six per cent of women have lost their jobs as a result of the drive to eliminate surplus workers.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

| Tuesday, December 12, 1989 | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--|
| Central Bank official rates | | | |
| | Buy | Sell | |
| U.S. dollar | 643.0 | 649.0 | |
| Pound Sterling | 1023.4 | 1033.6 | |
| Deutschmark | 365.2 | 368.9 | |

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|
| One Sterling | 1.6020/30 | U.S. dollars |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.1625/35 | Canadian dollar |
| | 1.7540/47 | Deutschmarks |
| | 1.9798/803 | Dutch guilders |
| | 1.5885/95 | Swiss francs |
| | 36.85/88 | Belgian francs |
| | 5.9950/6.000 | French francs |
| | 1298/1299 | Italian lire |
| | 144.27/37 | Japanese yen |
| | 6.3150/200 | Swedish crowns |
| | 6.7350/400 | Norwegian crowns |
| | 6.8150/200 | Danish crowns |
| One ounce of gold | 415.90/416.40 | U.S. dollars |

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Prices drifted downward in listless trading despite a sharply higher gold sector. The All Ordinaries index dropped 3.1 to 1,612.7.

TOKYO — Prices fluctuated in a narrow range on a themeless day, but one trader said the market remained strong. The Nikkei index gained 50.86 to 37,803.53.

HONG KONG — The market broke out of a prolonged spell of inertia, chiefly as a result of a high-level U.S. mission to Peking. The Hang Seng index rose 46.25 to 2,809.58, its biggest single-day gain since Nov. 9.

SINGAPORE — Buying by selected institutions and speculators pushed up prices to a second successive post-1987 high and one broker said sentiment remained bullish. The Straits Times industrial index gained 6.27 to 1,454.81.

BOMBAY — Share prices ended mixed in volatile trading for the new account after the exchange authorities halved deposit margins on sales to 15 per cent on 42 leading stocks.

FRANKFURT — West German shares ended mixed as the market's consolidation continued amid waning volume. The DAX index closed at 1,653.07, down 0.65.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed lower in thin trading. "Nothing happened and volume was very thin," one dealer said. The Swiss performance index closed at 1,136.3.

PARIS — French share prices were drifting in very thin trading by midday with all the action centred on isolated special situation stocks. The CAC index was 2.6 points down at 1,968.43.

LONDON — Prices were firm with activity dominated by the water issue. The premiums on the 10 water authorities' shares, which ranged from 33 to 58 per cent, helped the market gain early on but investors were cautious ahead of British and U.S. economic data later this week. By 1630 GMT the FTSE 100 was up 11 points at 2,362.4.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

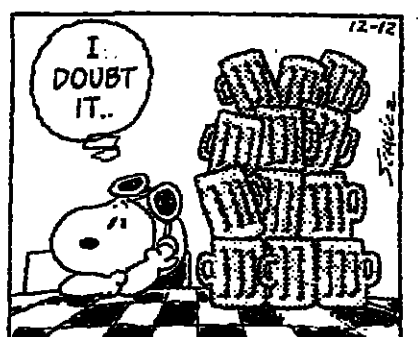


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: OF (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VIPER NOISY PEPSIN LICHEN
Answer: He tried to kiss her, but she'd have this—NONE OF HIS LIP

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Tyson, Maradona, Johnson — outstanding images of 1980s

By John McHaffey
Reuters

LONDON — A boxer of snarling ferocity, a footballer touched with genius and a sprinter who tumbled overnight from hero to villain formed the outstanding sporting images of the turbulent 1980s.

Mike Tyson emerged from a New York ghetto to launch a savage and successful bid for the undisputed heavyweight championship of the world.

From the slums of Buenos Aires, Diego Maradona graduated to the captaincy of his country and inspired Argentina to the soccer World Cup.

And Ben Johnson, born in a

Jamaican shanty town, beat Carl Lewis and the world 100 metres record in successive years before his fortunes crashed around him when he was expelled from the 1988 Olympics for using drugs.

Canadian Johnson's fall from grace after he had defeated Lewis and reduced his own world record in Seoul was the sports sensation of the decade.

Scandal also brushed Tyson. He was embroiled in an acrimonious divorce from his actress wife Robin Givens and charged with assault after one of a series of street scuffles.

Maradona had a series of bitter disputes with his Italian club Napoli, ending in an uneasy truce late in 1989. He also attracted adverse criticism for the huge

sums of money he demanded to play in charity matches.

For fight fans the 1980s opened with the almost unbearably poignant sight of Muhammad Ali searching in vain for the elixir of youth in an 11th round defeat by Larry Holmes.

Tyson exploded on to the world scene in 1986, knocking out the hapless Trevor Berbick within five minutes to become at 20 the youngest ever heavyweight champion. He went on to win nine further world title fights, seven within the distance.

The softly-spoken Tyson eschewed the flash and glamour which distinguished the Ali years, boxing sockless in plain black trunks. As the decade ended no-one looked remotely capable of beating him.

Maradona took over from the elegant Frenchman Michel Platini as soccer's leading light.

He transformed a talented but erratic Argentine side into world champions and hired his expensive talents to Spain's Barcelona and then Napoli.

Maradona's second goal in the Mexico World Cup quarter-final against England illuminated a memorable competition. A thunderous left-foot shot followed a 60-metre run in which the stocky Argentine weaved past defender after defender as if they were waxwork dummies.

In 1984 Los Angeles staged in Olympics during which an unashamedly chauvinistic audience seemed scarcely to notice the absence, through a political boycott, of the majority of the Soviet bloc nations.

The Soviets were retaliating for U.S. President Jimmy Carter's boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics, part of a protest against the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan the previous year.

In Los Angeles the American mood was upbeat as, against the backdrop of Ronald Reagan's successful re-election campaign, they cheered Lewis to gold medals in the 100, 200 and 4x100 metres relay plus the long jump.

Lewis should have been the ideal all-American hero.

Handsome, articulate and dedicated to the pursuit of both excellence and wealth, he somehow failed to capture the public imagination.

Lewis's clashes with Johnson were among the most dramatic sporting confrontations of the decade, highlighted by the contrast between the American's Lissom Grace and Johnson's awesome power.

East Germany's Marita Koch and American Florence Griffith Joyner were the outstanding women sprinters of their age.

Koch, whose delightful personality did much to erase the popular misconception that all East German athletes are unsmiling automations, gathered 16 world records before retiring in 1985.

The flamboyant Griffith Joyner transformed herself at the age of 28 in to the fastest woman of all time, slashing the world 100 metres record in the American championships then breaking the 200 mark twice in a day at the Seoul Olympics.

Physical conditioning became increasingly scientific during the 1980s.

Kareem Abdul Jabbar, the highest scorer in American basketball history, bowed out at the age of 42 after 20 professional seasons, a tribute both to modern training and his own acute intelligence.

And relentless training helped catapult Ivan Lendl — a Czechoslovak who embraced the American way of life with an intensity that perhaps only an immigrant can manage — to world number one in men's tennis.

Lendl, a gaunt, intense figure, honed his groundstrokes to near perfection but could not make the final adjustment to the serve-and-volley game demanded by Wimbledon's grass surface.

Wimbledon in the early part of the decade belonged to the troubled if immensely gifted John McEnroe.

McEnroe, as intuitive as Lendl was calculated, was capable of both sublime tennis and appalling behaviour.

He reached the heights in 1984, winning his third and final Wimbledon of the decade with a combination of power and delicacy none of his contemporaries could rival.

In women's tennis the start of the decade saw the cool Chris Evert at her peak while the mid-years were dominated by fellow American Martina Navratilova, as obsessive in her pursuit of physical fitness as Lendl.

By 1989 the game was ruled by Steffi Graf, a West German who went out and whacked the ball harder than anyone else around, and her compatriot Boris Becker, at 17 the youngest man ever to win Wimbledon.

If McEnroe was the unacceptable face of modern sport, Golf, to its eternal credit, continued to insist on exemplary behaviour from its practitioners.

Tom Watson took over from fellow American Jack Nicklaus as the world's top player before his putting deteriorated.

The dashing Spaniard Seve Ballesteros, flaxen-haired Australian Greg Norman and dedicated Briton Nick Faldo all had their days in the sun but no-one was able to exhibit quite the all-round authority Watson had displayed.

The growing strength of the European game was demonstrated when Europe defeated the United States in the 1985 Ryder Cup team competition, retaining the trophy in 1987 and 1989.

Motor racing, sport of the international jet set, witnessed the rise and fall of the turbo-engined cars, finally outlawed in an effort to increase safety and reduce costs.

Frenchman Alain Prost and Brazilian Nelson Piquet won the drivers' crown three times with Prost establishing himself as the world's outstanding driver with a record total of 39 grands prix.

But Prost's increasingly bitter

rivalry with his McLaren team mate Ayrton Senna overshadowed the 1989 season and he left the team to drive for Ferrari in 1990.

The America's cup rested with the San Diego yacht club at the decade's end, at least until the next court appeal.

Yachting's premier trophy was fought in the courts and not the open seas as San Diego and New Zealand's Mercury Bay boating club bickered about the rules in a dispute which had everything to do with money and prestige and nothing to do with sport.

In the water, Michael Gross, Vladimir Salnikov and Kristin Otto were the outstanding swimmers of their generation.

Salnikov pulled off an astonishing Olympic golden double, winning the 1,500 metres, freestyle in 1980 and 1988 after missing Los Angeles through the Soviet boycott.

China returned to the international sporting fold, competing in the Los Angeles Olympics after an absence of 32 years.

But South Africa remained isolated, despite belated attempts by



Diego Maradona — the maestro

administrators to end racial separation in sports.

In 1986 the Edinburgh Commonwealth games were largely boycotted by African, Asian and Caribbean nations.

boycotted in protest at Britain's refusal to impose economic sanctions on the white-ruled republic.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

WIFE OF COMANECI COMPANION GOES PUBLIC

The wife of the man who helped Olympic gold medalist Nadia Comaneci escape from Romania appeared on television Monday to say that her side of the story is unhappy. Maria Panait said she was proud when she first learned of the role her husband, Constantin, played in the defection of Comaneci, the gymnast who beguiled crowds at the 1976 Olympics.

But her pride turned to devastation when Comaneci and Panait appeared together in a news conference to announce they planned to settle down together. She said she was not heard from her husband since the escape. "I didn't sleep for five days, I've lost ten pounds, it's been very hard," said Mrs. Panait, 25. She lives in Hallandale with her four children, who also appeared on television to say they missed their father.

SALUD WINS TITLE FROM ESTRADA

América Jesus Salud took the World Boxing Association junior featherweight title from Mexico's Juan Jose Estrada on Monday after the referee disqualified Estrada in the ninth round for low blows. Salud raised his record to 32 wins

against three defeats. Estrada, who was penalised in the sixth round and warned again in the seventh for low blows, dropped to 36-8.

ARCHERS POSTAL SHOOT IS SHOT DOWN

A postal competition between English and South American archers dating back 30 years has been shot down by the Commonwealth Games Council because it contravenes the international sports boycott of the republic. Several English clubs have regularly taken part in the postal shoot which involved the exchange of scorecards with the Natal Archery Society from an agreed event in each country. An end to the competition was ordered by council secretary Brian Allinson.

PLATINI TO STAY ON AS FRANCE'S COACH

Michel Platini announced Monday that he would stay on as France's national soccer coach until the 1994 World Cup. The former international midfielder, who replaced Henri Michel as France's coach a year ago, denied media reports that he had been offered a job with the former Italian club Juventus. His contract was due to expire at the end of the year. Platini said he would sign a new four-and-a-half year

contract on Friday with a clause allowing him to end it at any time.

GIRARDELLI INJURED IN SPUR-G

Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg, the defending world cup overall ski champion, was injured Tuesday in a spectacular fall during a super-giant slalom race. The Austrian-born Girardelli lost control near the top of the course and crashed head first through a protective fence into a ditch, just 26 seconds into the race. He was helped up by race officials, but had trouble walking and sat back down. He was later put on a sled and taken by helicopter to a hospital. The extent of his injury was not immediately known.

MILLION-POUND WEGERLE JOINS QPR

Luton's South African-born striker Roy Wegerle moved to first division rivals Queens Park Rangers for £1 million (\$1.6 million) on Monday — and immediately staked a claim to play for the United States in June's World Cup. Wegerle, 25, is eligible to play international soccer for five countries because of his cosmopolitan upbringing. He could represent Scotland (his mother's birthplace), West Germany (father's birthplace), England (where he was qual-

ified for residence), the United States (his wife's nationality) and South Africa — although his birthplace is banned from competition by FIFA.

TENNIS ORGANISERS WILL PAY APPEARANCE FEES

Organisers of the Feb. 5-11 Milan indoor tennis tournament said Monday they will offer about \$600,000 in appearance fees on top of the \$600,000 in prize money.

Tournament director Sergio Palmieri said Ivan Lendl, the No. 1 player in the world, was signed up for the event, along with Americans John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors.

Under new rules of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), players can officially receive appearance money. The practice was previously banned, although it was widely acknowledged that such money was offered under the table.

INTERNATIONAL TEAM REACHES SOUTH POLE

A six-man international ski and sled dog team reached the South Pole on Monday, marking a major milestone in its 4,000-mile (6,400-kilometre) trek across Antarctica, a U.S. spokeswoman said. The team is believed to have reached the pole at about 1900 GMT.

THE Daily Crossword by L. Miller

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 M. Hulet of films | 1 Not precise |
| 5 Bedouin | 5 Skid |
| 10 "Pequod" | 7 Singer Davis |
| 14 Dramatic conflict | 8 In the lead |
| 15 Missouri River city | 9 Evolution |
| 16 Negri | 10 One of twelve |
| 17 Citrus tree | 11 —my thumb |
| 18 More subtle | 12 Astronaut |
| 19 Work | 13 Mean |
| 20 Avoid | 21 Bachelor's last words |
| 21 Hostilities | 22 Lycee |
| 22 Impressive | 23 Characteristic |
| 24 "Fables in Sings" author | 24 Rhett Butler |
| 25 Decree | 25 Fat part |
| 26 Source of great wealth | 26 Striped |
| 27 Fund type | 27 Col. quarters |
| 28 Dismissed | 28 Bouquet |
| 29 Type | 29 Jibe |
| 30 Sheriff | 30 Knocks down |
| 31 Verben | 31 Scold |
| 32 Aerosol | 32 Coughs |
| 33 Killer whale | 33 Bank robber's concern |
| 34 Faithful | 34 Fifth columnist |
| 35 Parent | 35 Wickwork |
| 36 Migration | 36 Star |
| 37 Elope | 37 Mubarak's city |
| 38 Affection | 38 Bivouac |
| 39 Serenade | 39 Affirm |
| 40 Racing sport | |
| 41 Most eggs | |
| 42 Letters | |
| 43 Card game | |
| 44 Con | |
| 45 Acknowledge | |
| 46 Headress | |
| 47 Move hastily | |
| 48 Butte | |
| 49 Special vocabulary | |
| 50 Sarah | |
| 51 Victim | |
| 52 Not a soul | |
| 53 Took a bus | |
| DOWN | |
| 1 Powder | |
| 2 Exchange premium | |
| 3 Volume | |

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 M. Hulet of films | 1 Not precise |
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| 15 Missouri River city | 9 Evolution |
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| 53 Took a bus | |
| DOWN | |
| 1 Powder | |
| 2 Exchange premium | |
| 3 Volume | |

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Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420
BOOL DURHAM
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10 p.m.

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144
TWO MOON JUNCTION
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **NIJOUN** Tel: 675571
Nadia Al Jundi in TERRORISM (Arabic)
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 674111
Glenn Eastwood in DEAD POOL
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Hong Kong begins forced repatriation of boat people

HONG KONG (AP) — Security forces bundled 51 Vietnamese men onto a chartered jet before dawn Tuesday and flew them to Hanoi in the first forced repatriation of boat people, triggering a chorus of international outrage.

But the colonial government said sending home Vietnamese who cannot prove they face political persecution was more humane than keeping them "endlessly" in this British colony. Hong Kong houses about 56,000 Vietnamese in squalid camps where violence and malnutrition are rife.

The Cathay Pacific Tri-Star carrying eight Vietnamese men, 17 women and 26 children arrived in Hanoi at 6:30 a.m. (2230 GMT) after a flight that reportedly went without incident.

The boat people were taken to a transit centre where they will be processed before returning to the provinces for job placement and training, a diplomatic source in Hanoi said.

Government-funded radio television Hong Kong, quoting an unidentified Vietnamese Foreign

Ministry official, said several thousand more people will be returned within weeks.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government ignored last-minute pleas from the United States and Canada not to go ahead with the programme. The London-based human rights group Amnesty International said it had appealed to no avail to Hong Kong's governor, Sir David Wilson.

Stanley Clinton Davis, chairman of the British Refugee Council described the pre-dawn roundup as "so reminiscent of the practices indulged in by tyrannies over the ages — the Nazis, the Communists, South Africa and others."

As the operation began at 3 a.m., Vietnamese screamed for help from the windows at the Phoenix House detention centre. Some hung a sign through the metal bars, reading: "Where is your humanity?"

The boat people were quickly pulled away by police equipped with helmets, shields, revolvers and batons. Sobs could be heard

from the cells; some Vietnamese held their heads in their hands.

"I don't want to go back to Vietnam," shouted one woman in broken cantonese, the local dialect of this British colony, as she waved her hands in despair.

About 200 police and correction officers were involved in the operation, outnumbering the Vietnamese almost 4-1. The government said no force was used.

The government said the expelled Vietnamese were illegal "economic migrants" who could not prove they had fled their homeland because of a fear of persecution.

"In our view it is more humane to go ahead with the repatriation of those who have been through the whole process of screening and appeal than to leave them waiting endlessly in camps," said a government spokesman.

It said Vietnam has given the Hong Kong government "firm assurances that those returning would not be punished for having left clandestinely" and that their return would initially be monitored by the British embassy in

Hanoi.

Hong Kong would like the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to monitor the returned boat people, but the relief agency Tuesday called the mandatory repatriation programme "premature" and refused to participate.

The UNHCR has coordinated a programme of voluntary repatriation in which 637 Vietnamese have returned to their homeland since March. They represent only a fraction of the 44,000 boat people who face possible deportation unless they qualify as refugees.

So far, nearly 6,800 Vietnamese screened by Hong Kong Immigration officials have failed to receive refugee status, compared with just more than 700 who qualified.

Opponents of forced repatriation have argued that it could trigger violence in the detention centres and lead some there to try suicide. Vietnamese already have staged hunger strikes and demonstrations to protest being sent home against their will. Several bloody riots have broken out.

Comoros mercenaries demand French asylum

DZAOUZI, Mayotte Island (Agencies) — White mercenaries who have seized control of the Comoros Islands are demanding asylum in France, presenting Paris with an embarrassing political problem, diplomats said Tuesday.

The diplomats in Moroni, capital of the Indian Ocean islands, said the demand had deadlocked negotiations for the peaceful departure of the 30-odd soldiers of fortune while France considered its response.

France and South Africa had been closely associated with the hired guns but turned against them after the assassination of President Ahmed Abdallah Nov. 26. It is widely believed the mercenaries killed him.

The two countries are now discreetly negotiating for the departure of the men, most of whom are French.

"These guys want a safe passage back to France," one diplomat said in a telephone interview from the French island of Mayotte.

The leader of the mercenaries, Bob Denard, is wanted in France on criminal charges in connection with a mercenary attack on the West African state of Benin in 1977 and at least one of the mercenaries is a French army deserter.

The mercenaries form the officer corps of the 650-strong presidential guard, which has disarmed the regular army and is now in charge of the civilian government, nominally led by Interim President Said Mohammed Djohar.

Residents in Moroni said Tuesday the white walls of the small palm fringed port city had been covered overnight with black graffiti.

Slogans such as "Bob Denard out," "11 years of corrupt government," and "out with the mercenaries" had been daubed all over town, they said.

A French military task force has fathomed in Mayotte, the only island in the Comoros archipelago which decided to remain French when the others unilaterally declared independence in 1975, to intervene in the Comoros if necessary.

A military spokesman said Monday the task force of four ships, four transport planes and five helicopters carrying 400 marine commandos and paratroopers, was ready to move into action at a moment's notice.

But he stressed it had been assembled to evacuate the 1,600 French residents in the Comoros if necessary, not to take on the mercenaries.

"It is not a question of 400 French soldiers against 30 merce-

naires," Colonel Philippe Charrier told reporters.

However, diplomats said the military show of strength was clearly to persuade the mercenaries to leave.

Denard, who led a 1978 invasion by 50 white mercenaries which brought Abdallah to power and stayed on to organise the presidential guard, has accepted in principle that he and the other "dogs of war" should go.

But the 60-year-old soldier of fortune told the French daily Figaro that he and his men should be given assurances of personal security and financial compensation.

Le Figaro quoted Denard as saying his forces would not shoot first if French soldiers landed, but adding: "There is such a thing as legitimate self-defence. We won't let ourselves be slaughtered like lambs."

Denard said he was willing to discuss terms for his departure, the newspaper reported.

"Let them propose an honourable exit," he was quoted as saying. "If they pay us indemnities, if they find a guarantee for our soldiers, then it would be with a heavy heart but we would leave. But it try to intimidate us, with planes flying overhead and grandiose preparations at Mayotte, that's ridiculous."

'Minister of cocaine' extradited

MIAMI (R) — A former Bolivian interior minister, dubbed by U.S. authorities as the "minister of cocaine," was handed over to U.S. drug agents in La Paz and flown to Miami Monday to face trial on drug trafficking charges.

Officials said Luis Arce Gomez, a former army colonel who had been on the run since the early 1980s, arrived at Miami international airport late Monday night and was taken under heavy guard to a nearby prison, a law-enforcement source said.

Arce Gomez, interior minister in the military government of General Luis Garcia Meza between 1980 and 1981, was indicted by a Miami federal grand jury in 1983 along with 17 others. He was charged with masterminding an operation that smuggled large loads of cocaine to the United States.

The indictment alleged that while he was a government minister, Arce Gomez created paramilitary groups that seized cocaine from traffickers who failed to pay for protection and then handed the drugs over to smugglers who did pay.

The Miami Herald newspaper said Arce Gomez once hired Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie, now serving a life sentence in France, to instruct his forces that tortured and killed opposition figures.

The White House hailed Arce Gomez's arrest, which took place Sunday at a farm in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

"The arrest of Arce Gomez sends a message that the president will work with other governments to pursue vigorously individuals who traffic in drugs," it said in a statement.

Arce Gomez and Garcia Meza, whose government is accused by Washington of having been in league with Bolivia's cocaine traffickers, also face charges of murder and military rebellion in Bolivia.

Garcia Meza, who escaped from house arrest early this year, had been toppled by his fellow army officers before they stood down in favour of an elected civilian government in 1982.

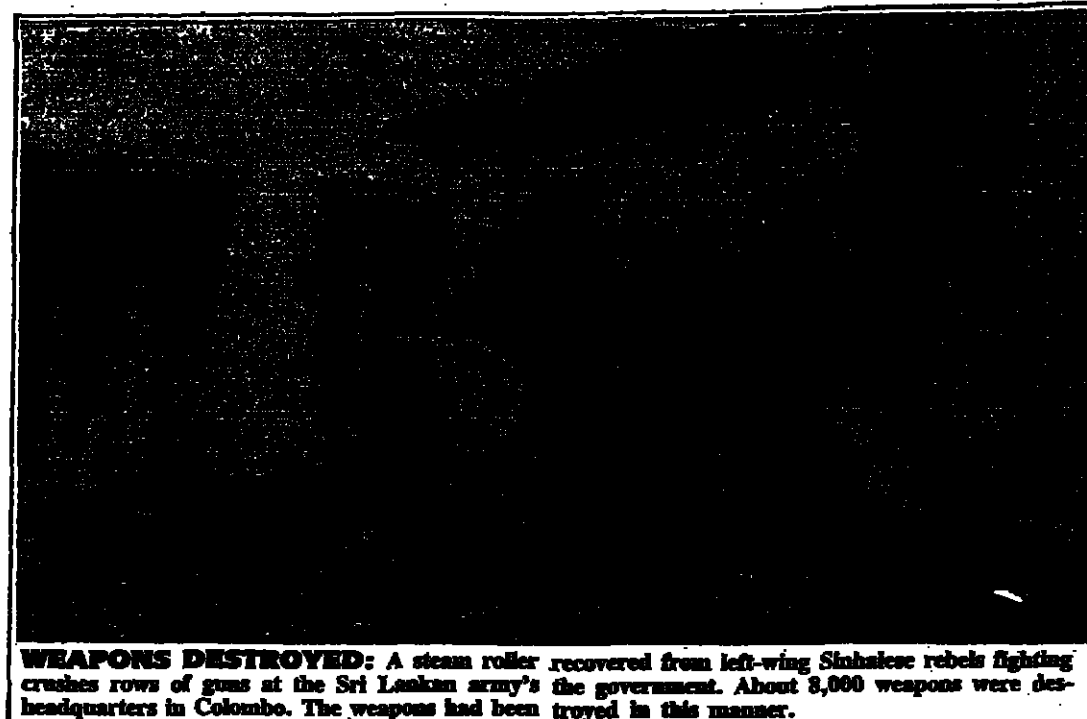
Bolivia has no extradition treaty with Washington and the expulsion of Arce Gomez was believed to be the first time a suspected drug trafficker had been sent for trial in the U.S.

Arce Gomez had been arrested in 1983 in Argentina, when the armed forces were still in power there. He escaped after his extradition was sought by the United States.

Bolivia and Peru grow most of the Coca leaf that is turned into cocaine in Colombian jungle laboratories and then exported to the United States and Europe.

The U.S. indictment states the conspiracy lasted from 1980 to 1981 and names several other Bolivian government and military officials among 18 defendants in the case.

Arce Gomez faces charges under the same indictment that led to the extradition to Miami in October of Colombian national Anna de Tamayo Rodriguez, 59. She was described as a minor player in the alleged smuggling ring.



WEAPONS DESTROYED: A steam roller recovered from left-wing Shabane rebels fighting crushes rows of guns at the Sri Lankan army's the government. About 3,000 weapons were destroyed in Colombo. The weapons had been trod in this manner.

Aquino aide warns of further attempts

Philippine troops raid homes of coup suspects

MANILA (Agencies) — Government soldiers Tuesday raided the houses of a suspected leader and a suspected sympathiser of last week's coup attempt and seized ammunition and radio equipment, the military reported. The suspects were not in their homes.

Meanwhile, the state-run news agency reported that between 300 million and 500 million pesos (\$14.3 million and \$23.8 million) worth of military equipment was destroyed in the seven-day mutiny.

President Corason Aquino's national security adviser warned Tuesday there could be a new army coup in the Philippines if government and military leaders ignore rebel appeals for political and economic reforms.

"I cannot rule out the possibility of another coup before President Aquino's term of office expires in 1992 if we refuse to face problems squarely and do something about them," Rafael Ilete, a former defence minister, said in an interview.

Military sources said they had evidence that some politicians were directly involved in the latest revolt in which 119 people were killed and about 600 wounded.

Brigadier-General Rodolfo

Biazon, responsible for Manila's defences, said the putsch was financed by people "already known but who will remain unnamed."

He said it cost from 300 million to 800 million pesos (\$14 million to \$37 million). A rebel general who led an assault at Camp Aguinaldo military headquarters in Manila was paid 25 million pesos (\$1.1 million).

"The rebels even received their Christmas bonuses ahead of our officers and men," Biazon told reporters.

Aquino last week linked her estranged Vice-President Salvador Laurel, former Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and her wealthy cousin, industrialist Eduardo Cojuangco, to the plot. Enrile and Laurel denied the accusations.

An officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said raiders seized 150 rounds of M-16 and 50 rounds of Uzi submachine-gun ammunition from the house of former army Major Lyel Tugbang near the Manila airport in suburban Paranaque.

Soldiers also found radio equipment and a list of radio frequencies, including those of 32 metropolitan Manila police stations and the Manila Bulletin, the

nation's largest newspaper, he said.

The military said Tugbang led rebel troops who disarmed air force soldiers guarding Manila's domestic airport in the early hours of first day of the coup attempt. Rebel troops occupied the airport for 12 hours.

The 40 M-16 assault rifles taken by the rebel soldiers from the air force guards have not been recovered, the officer said.

Tugbang also led a rebel band that tried to break through a military blockade on a seaside road near the airport, he added.

Soldiers also raided the house of Cornelio Sangalang, identified only as a former military officer and rebel sympathiser. The military said a van that had been used to transport the missing M-16s was found in the garage of Sangalang's home, which also was near the airport.

Tugbang and Sangalang were not at home during the raids. Tugbang's wife told raiders her husband had not come for about a month.

The Philippines News Agency said military losses in the coup attempt included three World War II vintage T-28 planes and one Sikorsky helicopter gunship used by the rebels.

COLUMN

Joyride in a sheriff's car

FORT COLLINS, Colorado (AP) — A woman stole a patrol car from a sheriff's deputy who had stopped on the highway to help her boyfriend with a stalled car, authorities said. Beverly Watt, 29, got into the car and headed north, leaving behind a confused boyfriend and a bewildered deputy, said Sheriff spokeswoman Laurie Klith. Watt was arrested a short time after the incident following a chase in Cheyenne, Wyoming, that ended in a collision between the sheriff's patrol car and a Wyoming highway patrol vehicle, Klith said. Watt was admitted to a Cheyenne hospital for psychiatric observation, Klith said, adding that charges were pending. Deputy Bill Eckrich had stopped to talk with the stranded driver, Johnathan Crosey, when Watt, Crosey's girlfriend, "jumped inside the sheriff's department vehicle and locked all of the doors," Klith said. "The next thing we knew, she was talking on his radio." "She was very belligerent and using foul language. She wasn't very nice at all."

Global weather

(major world cities)

| | °C | °F | Weather |
|--------------|-----|----|---------------|
| AMSTERDAM | 05 | 32 | 30 Rain |
| ATHENS | 05 | 41 | 10 50 Cloudy |
| BAHRAIN | 16 | 61 | 20 77 Rain |
| BANGKOK | 20 | 68 | 32 90 Clear |
| Buenos Aires | 20 | 68 | 31 85 Rain |
| Cairo | 15 | 59 | 20 68 Clear |
| CHICAGO | -07 | 19 | -08 27 Snow |
| COPENHAGEN | -05 | 23 | 03 37 Cloudy |
| FRANKFURT | -04 | 25 | -02 28 Cloudy |
| GENEVA | -02 | 28 | 04 39 Cloudy |
| HONG KONG | 16 | 64 | 22 72 Clear |
| ISTANBUL | -02 | 28 | 06 43 Clear |
| LONDON | 02 | 36 | 10 50 Rain |
| LOS ANGELES | 06 | 47 | 20 68 Clear |
| MADRID | 07 | 45 | 19 65 Rain |
| MECCA | 21 | 70 | 27 81 Cloudy |
| MONTREAL | -17 | 07 | -11 12 Cloudy |
| MOSCOW | -12 | 10 | -06 21 Cloudy |
| NEW DELHI | 09 | 48 | 25 77 Clear |
| NEW YORK | -01 | 31 | 04 39 Cloudy |
| PARIS | -01 | 30 | 07 45 Cloudy |
| ROME | 01 | 34 | 15 55 Cloudy |
| SYDNEY | 21 | 70 | 27 81 Cloudy |
| TOKYO | 06 | 43 | 13 55 Cloudy |
| VIENNA | -05 | 23 | 00 32 Clear |

Bush, catching flak for China move, defends stand

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush has defended his decision to send two top aides to Beijing over the weekend, and he said he would "keep looking for ways to find common ground" with Chinese leaders despite unhappiness with their crackdown against pro-democracy forces.

Bush stressed Monday that the trip by National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and a top State Department aide did not amount to normalisation of relations. He said those who suggest otherwise "simply do not know what they are talking about."

Bush, who has been criticised by majority opposition Democrats in Congress for sending the two senior advisers to China, said he took the action because, "I do

not want to isolate the Chinese people."

Bush said the United States maintains contacts with several countries that have "egregious records on human rights." As for this spring's bloody crackdown in Beijing, Bush said, "The Chinese know they have to address themselves to the problems that were inherent in this episode."

The president made his comments to a group of editorial writers gathered in an auditorium across the street from the White House.

He opened the session with a review of his first year as president. Citing an improved U.S.-Soviet relationship and other developments, he said, "I'm not overly satisfied but I think generally the first year has gone pretty well."

As for China, Bush said he was "very pleased today in the wake of General Scowcroft's visit to notice that the Chinese Foreign Ministry stated that they would not sell missiles to any Mideast countries."

He added that Scowcroft had raised the issue in his weekend talks with Chinese leaders, and the Chinese made their announcement before the national security adviser and Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger had returned to Washington.

Bush called the Chinese statement "a very sound development," although he had received the same assurances during a trip to China last February.

Even as Bush spoke, congressional Democrats stepped up their criticism of his actions.

C. American summit calls on Salvador rebels to demobilise

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (Agencies) — Central American presidents Tuesday called for the demobilisation of El Salvador's leftist guerrillas and said Nicaragua should stop providing them with arms.

It was the strongest call in two years of summit meetings for an end to the bitter civil war that flared with renewed vigour in El Salvador in recent weeks with a rebel urban offensive.

The final summit communiqué urged the leftist Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, (FMLN) to cease all operations that affect the civilian population and incorporate themselves into the peaceful political process.

It also asked U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to try to restart peace talks between the rebels and El Salvador's rightist government.

The rebels launched an urban offensive Nov. 11 that has

claimed hundreds of civilian lives and prompted El Salvador to suspend relations with Nicaragua, which it accuses of arming the rebels.

The presidents of Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras urged El Salvador and Nicaragua to mend their tattered relations. El Salvador suspended relations with Nicaragua Nov. 26 after a Nicaraguan-registered plane loaded with missiles for the FMLN crashed in El Salvador.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega agreed to suspend his World Court case accusing Honduras of harbouring Nicaraguan rebels, smoothing a dispute that led Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo to leave the Central American summit for several hours late Monday. The six-month suspension was included in the final communiqué.

"The start of the demobilisation process of the Nicaraguan

resistance and the FMLN is a fundamental element in overcoming the crisis that the peace process faces," the communiqué said.

The final document urged the International Commission of Support and Verification (ICSV) set up by the United Nations and the Organisation of American States to supervise the dismantlement of the contras to extend its role to demobilisation of the FMLN.

"The presidents support the Nicaraguan government of President Daniel Ortega to the effect that funds approved for the Nicaraguan resistance should be given from the signing of this document to the CIAV, with a view to executing the process of demobilisation, repatriation or voluntary relocation in Nicaragua or third countries of the members of the Nicaraguan resistance and their families," the communiqué said.



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